LET'S TALK DERBY

BOXERS, BASEBALL, BOURBON — THERE'S MORE TO LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, THAN A HORSE RACE. AND THE HATS AREN'T TOO SHABBY, EITHER PAGE 22

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VANCOUVER metro®

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

News worth sharing.

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HOLY SMOKES!

Andy Smith, the designer and builder of the Batmobile Tumbler featured in Batman Begins and The Dark Knight, shows off the Caped Crusader's wheels Tuesday at the Electronic Arts studios in Burnaby. Smith, a cancer survivor, brought the famous ride to help raise money for cancer research. Story and photos, page 4. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Winning formula

Romantic films like The Lucky One have made flowery writer Nicholas Sparks truly, madly successful PAGE 20

Guess who's snooping on Facebook?

Moms and dads admit they secretly access their teen's Facebook account PAGE 9

Put a fruity twist on pizza

This pie makes for a flavourful contrast with both the sweet and the tangy PAGE 25

RBC Royal Bank

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Student union building

Forget stairs — UBC looks into slides

The University of B.C.'s Alma Mater Society has hopes to create a fun way for students to get between floors at the university's new student union building (SUB) by building slides that allow students to slip from floor to floor.

Plans are currently underway to incorporate two $25,000 slides on the east side of the new 250,000-square-foot SUB, which is currently under construction.

"We got a lot of feedback (from students saying) they wanted something to play off interactive learning and taking a break from their studies — study and play," said Caroline Wong, AMS vice-president of administration and chair of the SUB project committee.

"It will be the first slide in a SUB in North America. We want to leave that kind of legacy for our students."

Construction of the SUB began earlier this year, but initial plans did not include slides. The building is expected to be complete by 2014.

According to Joost Bakker, a principal architect with Dialog Architects responsible for designing the new SUB, building indoor slides is a feasible option but said more research needs to be completed.

While plans are still in the early stages, Wong said they are accessing all options to make the slides as safe as possible, noting there would be safety protocols and guidelines in place such as locking it up at night.

The addition of slides will not push the completion date back.

KENDRA WONG/METRO

Vancouver Canucks right wing Zack Kassian bows his head as he sits on the bench during the final minutes of the third period of Game 2 of first-round NHL Stanley Cup playoff hockey action against the LA Kings at Rogers Arena in Vancouver on Friday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canucks playing playoff possum?

Stanley Cup playoffs. UBC biologist believes Vancouver Canucks' 0-3 deficit could be act of playing possum

KENDRA WONG
For Metro in Vancouver

The Vancouver Canucks are in a situation that fans and players didn't expect to find them in so early into the Stanley Cup Playoffs — down 0-3 in the first round against the Los Angeles Kings.

With the possibility of being swept in Game 4, the back-to-back Presidents' Trophy winners seem confident they can still win the series.

On Monday following their Game 3 loss, defenceman Kevin Bieksa tweeted: "Good regroup today for the boys! Lots of team bonding … Got these guys right where we want them!"

According to UBC biologist Wayne Goodey, Bieksa's reassuring tweet to fans could represent a textbook case of playing possum.

When possums are caught by predators, they instinctively play dead by flopping down on their backs with their mouth wide open and legs twitching.

"In the case of the possum, the best it can do is try and frighten the predator, surprise them, or create some sort of doubt in the predator's mind and then it might leave them alone or allow it to escape," said Goodey.

Online excitement has been mounting about the Canucks dropping the first three games only to "reverse sweep" the Kings and make their comeback more nail-biting.

"We're feeling good," goaltender Cory Schneider told reporters in L.A. "It's not a great situation, but we're not viewing it as that kind of deficit."

Only three teams in the history of the NHL have come back from a 0-3 deficit to win a series and Goodey believes playing possum is risky business.

"Most predators won't hesitate to eat dead things. The idea of playing dead as a mechanism to avoid danger is just not going to work," he said, adding that it probably won't work for the Canucks.

Playing dead

"Most predators won't hesitate to eat dead things. The idea of playing dead as a mechanism to avoid danger is just not going to work."

Wayne Goodey, UBC biologist

1 NEWS

On the web

Bop to shop

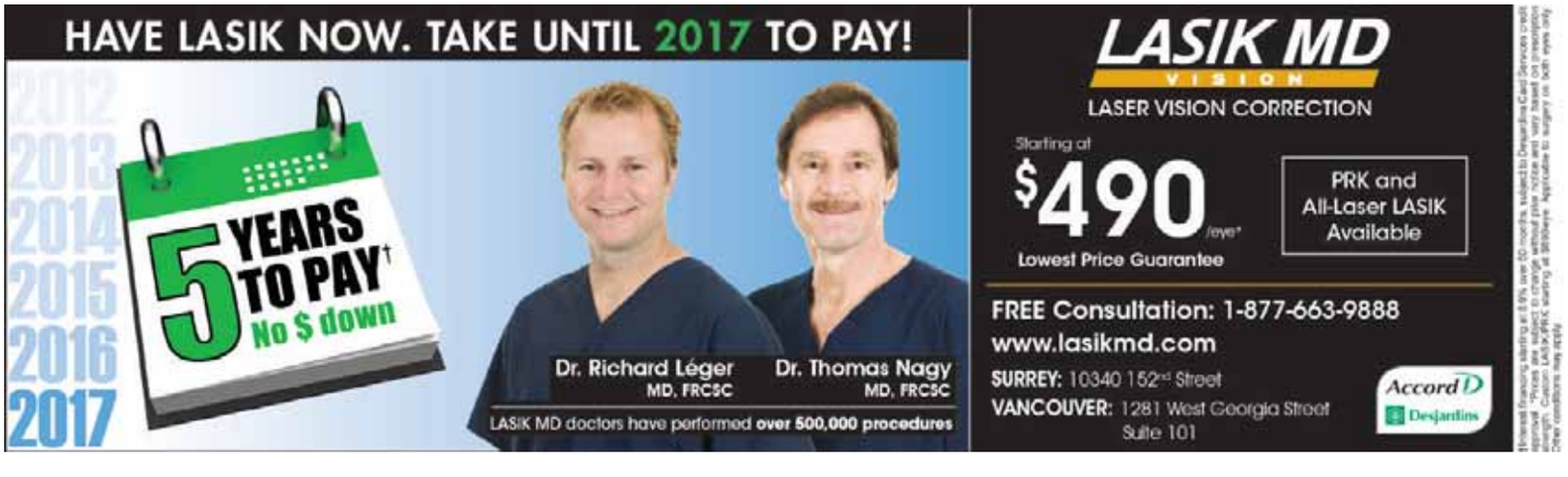
Viewers of Diplo's new project, I Think She Ready, may want to keep their credit cards close at hand when checking out the music video. Those watching can also buy fashions worn by the artists on screen. See metronews.ca for the full story.

Woof tube

DogTV fetches four-legged viewers with a new breed of television programming: An eight-hour block of on-demand cable TV programming designed to keep your dog relaxed, stimulated and entertained while you are at work. Watch at metronews.ca

Mobile news

A brew and a bro — it's the classic pairing, right? Not necessarily. From the rise of female brew masters to the growth of women's tasting groups, women are becoming much more than a pint-sized part of the brewing world. Scan the code for the story and video.



Batmobile creator and cancer survivor brings Batman's hot wheels into Vancouver in an effort to give back and say thanks to those who helped him fight the disease.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

1 Little bat-fan.

Alex Agostini, 3, shows off his best Batman pose after getting an up close and personal look at the Batmobile Tumbler.

2 Batmobile builder.

Andy Smith says he borrowed the famous car in an effort to give back to those who helped him fight cancer three years ago.

3 Fandemonium.

Scores of onlookers take pictures and videos of the famous Batmobile outside the Electronic Arts studios in Burnaby.

4 Bigger is better.

The Batmobile Tumbler has four rear 44-inch super swamper tires with titanium axles and a jet burner in rear with vector controls for the jet.

Fans gather as the infamous Batmobile rolls into Burnaby

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Batman won't be cruising through Gotham and fighting bad guys in style without the help of a B.C. man.

Deep Cove resident Andy Smith, the designer and builder of the newest Batmobile, showed off the caped crusader's hot wheels to help raise money for cancer research.

Smith, along with a team of engineers, created the Batmobiles that were used for Batman Begins, The Dark Knight and the soon-to-be-released The Dark Knight Rises.

"Three years ago, I had my run-in with cancer," Smith said. "I was diagnosed and the cancer agency fixed me. I thought now I've got a chance to give something back."

He said bringing the Batmobile is his way of giving thanks to the doctors and the B.C. Cancer Agency who helped him during his fight with the disease.

"You're fit and healthy and life is rocking along and then the rug gets pulled out from underneath you and everything stops," he said.

Fight for life

"You're fit and healthy and life is rocking along and then the rug gets pulled out from underneath you and everything just stops."

Andy Cove, Designer of the Batmobile
on his battle with cancer three years ago

"I consider myself extremely lucky ... (and now) I'm at the other side. I've been clear for three years."

Smith said the Batmobile Tumbler was driven up from California on a flatbed truck uncovered and caused quite a commotion as it passed through the border.

Bat-fans, who donated to the B.C. Cancer Foundation, scored a chance to see the Batmobile up close at the Electronic Arts studios in Burnaby.

Smith said director Christopher Nolan likes to have realism in his films so he and his team built the Tumbler from scratch.

It goes more than 175 kilometres per hour and is powered by a 350 Chevy engine.

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J&M Regular Price $1,490.00
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14kt gold bracelet with 36 diamonds (1.08 cttw)
Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,789.00
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Ladies' 14kt yellow gold dual strand rope style bracelet with five faceted amethysts (4.12 cttw), 11.6 grams
Appraisal value: $1,850.00
J&M Regular Price $759.00
J&M Sale Price $494.00

Pair of vintage dress clips with 4.6 cttw baguette and round diamonds
Appraisal value: $17,800.00
J&M Regular Price $8,495.00
J&M Sale Price $6,496.00

14kt two-toned mens' wedding band, 7.3 grams
J&M Regular Price $473.00
J&M Sale Price $377.00

18kt yellow gold ring inlaid with natural placer gold nuggeds and three full cut diamonds on a diagonal white gold plate (0.09 cttw), 7.1 grams
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.950 platinum band, 4.69 grams
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J&M Price Comparison

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Science. Magazine brings new monthly discussion to Science World

Where do you get your science from: Blogs, magazines, journals?

A new monthly discussion series founded by the prestigious journal Nature that explores that question, the way the Internet has transformed scientific research, and how people consume it, is coming to Science World this Thursday.

One of the event's co-founders, UBC astronomy professor Peter Newbury, explained ScienceOnline Vancouver's aim is to connect scientists with communicators such as bloggers and journalists, and layman enthusiasts.

"It's not a place where researchers come and give a spiel about their latest research. It's not an academic conference like that," he said. "Instead it's about: 'We've got this interesting idea, we've got this new discovery, how do we go about sharing that result?'"

He cited the example of one of Thursday's three panelists, UBC microbiologist Rosie Redfield, who used her blog in 2010 to debunk a study published in the journal Science about the possibility primitive life forms could incorporate arsenic into their DNA in place of phosphorus. She went on to be named one of Nature's top 10 newsmakers of 2011 for openly blogging pictures of her experiments disproving the NASA-funded study.

ScienceOnline started as an annual conference in London, U.K. in 2008 and has since evolved into a monthly event in other major cities including New York City, San Francisco, and earlier this week Seattle.

Vancouver's inaugural event starts at 7 p.m. It is suitable for students in high school and up.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Spousal violence. New numbers paint ugly picture

A woman is eight times more likely than a man to be killed by her spouse or partner, the B.C. Coroners Service announced Tuesday.

The Coroners Service found that 36.4 per cent of women murdered in B.C. over a nine year period were killed by an intimate partner, compared to only 4.6 per cent of murdered men, The research looked at 120 homicides between 2003 and 2011 in circumstances involving a current or former spouse, girlfriend, boyfriend or romantic partner. Victims included current, or former partners as well as children and others who were caught in the violence.

"Deaths from intimate partner violence remain a matter of great concern," Lisa Lapointe, the province's chief coroner said in a release. The 120 deaths represent about one eighth of all homicides in the province over the nine years of the study. The report also found that 80 per cent of assailants were male and that men were the attacker in all instances where more than one person died (multiple homicides and homicide/suicides).

Other findings:

- There were zero intimate partner murders among same sex couples during the nine year period.
- The most common means of death in these homicides was stabbing, accounting for a quarter of the female homicides and two-thirds of male deaths.
- The average age of a female victim was 44.9 years — The average age of a male victim was 37.4 years.

JEFF HODSON/METRO

Students wait for buses at the University of B.C. in September 2010. TransLink CEO Ian Jarvis announced Tuesday that the transportation authority was putting further expansion on hold until it figures out how to pay for it. KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO FILE

Under-fire TransLink halts expansion projects

Transit. Rejected revenue streams force transit authority to scrap future plans

MATT KIELTYKA
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Twin decisions to reject proposed fare and property tax hikes have forced TransLink to scrap expansion projects across the region.

TransLink CEO Ian Jarvis held a briefing with media Tuesday to discuss his reaction to the double-whammy handed down by commissioner Martin Crilly and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation.

Crilly rejected a request to increase fares by 12.5 per cent in 2013 and instead suggested that TransLink should take a look at itself in the mirror and cut up to $60 million in administration costs.

The comment came after the province announced it would launch an audit of the transportation authority.

"TransLink is a well run organization and we've been challenged to do better," insisted Jarvis.

However, the under-fire executive said relying solely on cost savings to fund the authority's expansion plans "is not fiscally sound" and said time will tell whether Crilly's target of $60 million in internal savings is reasonable.

In the meantime, TransLink is putting the brakes on a number of expansion plans in the absence of the increased fare and tax revenues it had been counting on.

"We must be responsible in the way we move forward," Jarvis said. "So we're going to put the expansion plans on hold until we have a way to pay for them."

Construction of the Evergreen Line rapid-transit project won't be affected, as a gas tax increase earlier this month will be enough to cover costs.

But plans to significantly expand bus service, specifically in Surrey, and upgrades to older SkyTrain stations ahead of the installation of fare gates will be delayed until new funding is secured.

"Until we have an understanding of how we'll pay for those, there will be an impact," Jarvis said.

The CEO said he welcomes the upcoming audit, but insists TransLink has already been "pretty aggressive" in finding cost reductions in recent years.

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Quebec construction magnate Tony Accurso is surrounded by media as he leaves a police facility in Montreal on Tuesday. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Construction boss arrested: Quebec bombshells feared

Province jolted. Reclusive Tony Accurso is arrested with 13 others in a case with far-reaching political effects

A prominent Quebec construction magnate whose cosy ties to politicians and links to business figures have triggered allegations of scandal is facing six fraud-related charges in a case that could have far-reaching political repercussions.

Tony Accurso, 61, was among 14 people arrested by the anti-corruption unit of the Quebec provincial police in raids Tuesday.

The arrests could lead to an in-depth look into the murky world of contract bidding at the municipal and provincial levels.

Accurso is one of the most controversial figures in Quebec. He has a hand in multiple companies that have considerable reach and have done extensive roadwork in the province.

He has seen his name surface in alleged construction scandals that have rocked the province for years, involving municipal and provincial politicians and union bosses.

But the reclusive businessman had never been charged with anything — until being swept up in an alleged bribery scandal in Mascouche, in Montreal's northern suburbs.

Police say Accurso and others were involved in kickbacks and bribes exchanged for favourable contracts or privileged information key to the bidding process. Officials say the practice has been going on for several years.

Accurso faces six charges: fraud, conspiracy, influence-peddling, breach of trust and two counts of defrauding the government.

The 18-month investigation culminated in a total of 47 charges.

Accurso emerged from provincial police headquarters Tuesday afternoon with a throng of reporters and cameramen waiting for him.

He said nothing as he hopped into a car and left.

Police said all of those arrested were to be released Tuesday under various conditions and promises to appear before a judge at a later date.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The fallout

The criminal charges could have an influence that goes far beyond the courtroom.

- **The Probe.** Premier Jean Charest has called an inquiry into widespread allegations of corruption involving the Quebec construction industry and its ties to political parties and the awarding of public contracts.
- **The Election.** It's unclear what impact the arrests will have on the timing of a provincial election. Charest may be tempted to go to the polls in the spring before proceedings start.

Tories' plan is praised and panned

Environment. Major overhaul of rules will create jobs, say feds. Nonsense, says NDP — the big companies will be winners

A major overhaul of environmental assessment rules for big projects will create jobs and growth, the federal government announced Tuesday.

The Tory announcement sparked resource industry praise and fierce criticism from environmental groups.

First signalled in last month's budget, the government said proposed new rules would encourage investment by avoiding wasteful duplication and setting strict time limits for project reviews.

"We intend to focus federal assessment efforts on major projects that can have significant environmental effects, such as energy and mining projects," Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver said.

"Streamlining the review process … will attract significant investment dollars and give every region of our country a tremendous economic boost."

The plan calls for three organizations — the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, the National Energy Board and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission — to conduct reviews, down from 40 government departments that can currently be involved.

But Opposition New Democrats and environmental groups accused the Conservative government of ramming through legislation that would "rubber-stamp" assessments to the benefit of large corporations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

End of an era?

"This is really a weakening of key environmental protection measures that have been in place for decades. It's meant to pave the way for Big Oil to get what it wants."

Gillian McEachern,
with Environmental Defence.

Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver takes a question during a Toronto-area news conference Tuesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

O Canada … we're oh, so proud of you

That tiny Maple Leaf flag on a child's cheek says it all. Five-year-old Andromeda Bromwich on Tuesday shows that even youngsters like to show off their pride in Canada. Andromeda and Liberal interim leader Bob Rae are pictured as they took part in a dance to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in downtown Ottawa. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Internet. Mom, dad are Facebook snoops: Survey

More than 50 per cent of the Canadian parents surveyed for a study on online safety admitted they secretly access their teenager's Facebook account.

According to a survey conducted in 11 countries by security company AVG, the global average of snooping parents was 44 per cent.

Still, Canadian parents were less likely to spy on their teens than those in the U.S. and Spain, where 61 per cent admitted to monitoring Facebook covertly.

When accounting for the results from all countries, mothers were more likely than fathers to do the cyber-stalking.

About 49 per cent of the moms admitted to doing so, compared to 39 per cent of dads.

Canadian parents were second most likely to be Facebook friends with their teens.

About 66 per cent said their kids had accepted their friend request, compared to 72 per cent in the U.S., and just 32 per cent in France and 10 per cent in Japan.

When it came to worries about online behaviour, about 38 per cent of Canadian parents said they worried their teen's actions on social networks could affect their future job, school or dating prospects, compared to 40 per cent in the U.S. and 42 per cent globally.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smoking. Tory cuts boost Big Tobacco, activists say

National health groups are condemning the Harper government for cuts to a federal non-smoking program.

Melodie Tilson, from the Non-Smokers Rights Association, says the cuts give tobacco companies the upper hand in influencing future health policy decisions.

"Why would the Harper government gut a program that saves the lives of Canadians, saves government money and safeguards the health and well-being of our youth?" Tilson asked.

The federal budget cut $15 million — more than 30 per cent — from the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy, which has reduced the number of smokers across Canada.

The winner?

"Consider who wins by this decision. The only winner — and they are big winners — is Big Tobacco."

Melodie Tilson,
Non-Smokers Rights Association.

But Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq listed several government anti-smoking initiatives, including warning labels on cigarette packaging, a national hotline for people who want to quit smoking and a ban on small, flavoured cigarettes targeted at youth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suspicions still abound in Egypt's deadly soccer riot

Top cops among those charged. 75 fans killed in February melee; victims mostly fans of Cairo's Al-Ahly team; most defendants fans of Port Said team

A defendant facing charges relating to soccer deaths reacts at trial. HOSSAM ALI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fans charged in Egypt's deadliest soccer riot declared their innocence in the first session of their trial Tuesday.

And they directed their anger toward police, charged with collaborating in the killing of 75 supporters of a rival team.

Nine senior officers, including six police generals and a colonel, are among the 73 people charged in the case. The officers were present in the courtroom, dressed in traditional white defendant uniforms, but they were not held in the courtroom cage with the rest of those on trial.

If the police are convicted, it would further fuel widespread speculation that the country's much-despised Interior Ministry force allowed the bloody February 2012 attack on fans of a soccer club with which they have a long antagonistic history.

Most of the defendants are fans of Al-Masry, the main sports club in the Mediterranean city of Port Said, where the attack took place.

The majority of the victims were fans of a rival team, Cairo's Al-Ahly, whose supporters are credited with playing a major role in the 18-day popular uprising that toppled longtime President Hosni Mubarak last year.

Survivors of the attack charge that police allowed the attack by Al-Masry fans to deteriorate into bloodshed.

Others have suggested that former regime loyalists hired thugs to kill Al-Ahly fans. "Where is Mubarak?" the defendants chanted, reflecting their suspicion of the ousted regime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea celebrates

A family poses for a picture in front of portraits of the late leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong-il at a festival for the "Kimilsungia" flower to mark 100 years since the birth of North Korea's late founder in Pyongyang, North Korea, Tuesday. VINCENT YU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chile

Harper, wife awakened by major quake

Prime Minister Harper and his wife Laureen were awakened by a major earthquake as they overnighted in the Chilean capital.

Buildings shook throughout the city at around 12:50 a.m. Tuesday in a 6.7 magnitude earthquake centred 112 kilometres from Santiago.

"The prime minister and his wife were at the hotel when the earthquake happened," said Harper's spokesperson. No Canadians were injured.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Near Aspen

Cows take shelter and freeze

It may take explosives to dislodge a group of cows that wandered into an old ranger cabin high in the Rocky Mountains, then died and froze solid. They were discovered in March.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING BLENZ COFFEE

GREEN IS THE NEW BLACK

JAMIL RHAJIAK PHOTO

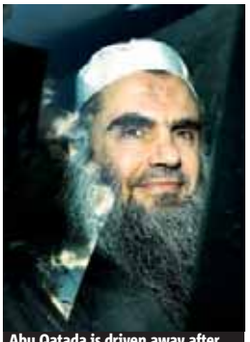
Remember the days when neon colours were in, or when you used to listen to cassette tapes on your Walkman? At the time we thought that we were so in tune with what was "cool," but now you probably look back and cringe at some of the clothes you wore, the catch phrases you said, or the products you used that were "so now."

Most of us don't wear the same clothes or listen to the same music we did 10 years ago, so why are we still drinking the same old black coffee? Sure, the names may have changed to bring us into the twenty-first century, but the main ingredient ultimately remains the same. We all love coffee and it has served us well over the years, but there comes a time when you have to explore your options and occasionally accessorize with something different, like the way you chose the latest piece of jewelry or the hottest trend in shoes.

The trend surrounding what you drink is just as important. So what's in vogue today? Ever heard of matcha? It's a premium green tea powder from Japan. Most people have heard about the many health benefits that green tea has to offer, but did you know that matcha offers the same great benefits that green tea offers, but only amplified? Compounds found in matcha have been known to reduce stress and improve mental alertness, and matcha contains more antioxidants on a per gram basis than any other fruit or vegetable, including blueberries, pomegranates, and spinach.

Today, matcha is a hot commodity and a lot of popular coffee chains will often use sugars or fillers to cut their matcha because it is so expensive. However, at BLENZ, they use only 100 per cent pure matcha in their products to make sure that their customers are getting only the best. Did you know it was actually BLENZ COFFEE that first introduced the Matcha Latte™ to Vancouver, and they actually own the trademark to the name? Visit a BLENZ store today and enjoy a regular sized Matcha Latte™ , hot or cold, for just $2.99 plus tax. **Taste the difference today.**

Jordan promises 'fair trial'. Britain may soon be able to deport radical



Abu Qatada is driven away after being refused bail on Tuesday. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A radical Islamist cleric fighting deportation from Britain to Jordan was again behind bars Tuesday, and the U.K. said it hoped to finally expel the preacher after a decade of legal wrangling.

Home Secretary Theresa May said new assurances from Jordan to offer a fair trial to Abu Qatada, a Palestinian-Jordanian preacher described in Spanish and British courts as a leading al-Qaida figure in Europe, should allow the saga to end.

Authorities in Britain have been trying to expel the preacher since 2001, but after a lengthy legal battle the European Court of Human Rights ruled in January that Abu Qatada could not be deported to Jordan because of a risk that evidence obtained through torture would be used against him there.

Abu Qatada has previously been convicted in absentia in Jordan of terrorist offences related to two alleged bomb plots in 1999 and 2000, and he will face a retrial if deported from Britain.

The preacher was arrested on Tuesday by U.K. Border Agency officers and denied bail at a hearing at the Special Immigration Appeals Commission — a court that handles deportation and national security cases.

He had been freed in February following the European court's ruling, albeit on strict bail conditions.

Following two visits by British ministers to Jordan and telephone talks between Prime Minister David Cameron and Jordan's King Abdullah II, Britain had secured a series of pledges to address the European court's concerns, May said.

May said that Jordan had vowed that no information gleaned through torture would be used in the cleric's case and had changed its constitution to bar the use of such evidence.

Britain first attempted to deport Abu Qatada in 2001. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romania

Public funds used to finance a book featuring fascist leader

A Holocaust research centre in Romania says public funds were used to finance a children's poetry book that features on its cover Romania's Second World war fascist leader.

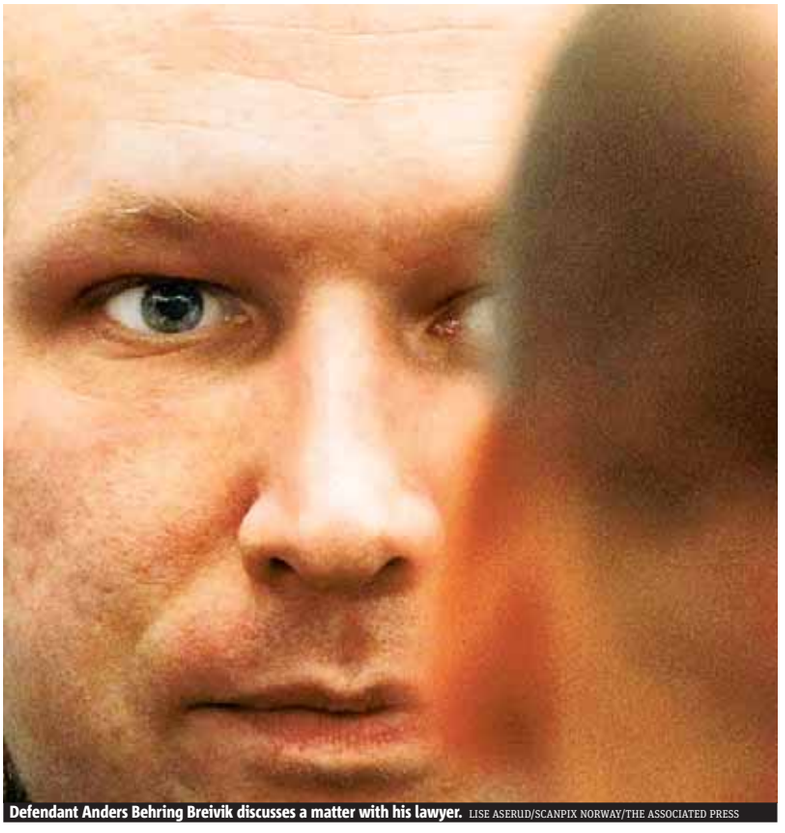
The National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania blasted a local council for helping publish the book by George Ungureanu, 100, a former member of pro-Hitler group active in Romania during the war.

The book has Corneliu Zelea Codreanu, founder of the fascist Iron Guard legion, on its cover.

Guard members gained notoriety for vicious anti-Semitism. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shooter gives speech to courtroom in Oslo

Day 2 of Norway's mass killer trial. Anti-Muslim fanatic insists on finishing his whole diatribe, or not speaking at all



Defendant Anders Behring Breivik discusses a matter with his lawyer. LISE ASERUD/SCANPIX NORWAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a scene unimaginable in many countries, Norway's worst mass killer since ther Second World War gets to explain his fanatical views to the court and the world for days dressed up in a business suit.

Two days into Anders Behring Breivik's terror trial, the studied formality with which Norway's legal system deals with a confessed killer who rejects its authority is baffling to outsiders, even to some Norwegians.

On Monday, the day the trial started, Norwegian prosecutors and even lawyers representing the families of his 77 victims shook Breivik's hand as proceedings began.

On Tuesday, the 33-year-old far-right militant was allowed to give an hour-long address to the court, reading from a statement that summarized the anti-Islamic manifesto that he posted online before his bomb-and-shooting rampage nine months ago.

"The attacks on July 22 were a preventive strike. I acted in self-defence on behalf of my people, my city, my country," Breivik declared.

He was demanding to be found innocent of terror and murder charges. He set off a bomb outside the government headquarters in Oslo, killing eight, then drove to Utoya island outside the capital and massacred 69 people in a shooting spree at the governing Labor Party's youth summer camp on the island.

It was the most "spectacular" attack by a nationalist militant since the Second World War, he boasted.

The court's main judge interrupted Breivik several times Tuesday, asking him to get to the point, but let him continue after he threatened that he would either finish his speech or not speak at all.

"It is critically important that I can explain the reason and the motive" for the massacre, said Breivik.

Breivik, who has admitted the attacks, said it doesn't matter if he's sent to prison, because living in a country ruled by "multiculturalists" was a prison in itself. The main point of his defence is to avoid an insanity ruling. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accused gives speech

"What I see happening in Norway with Breivik's statement is a trial about politics, not legal evidence." Jeff Kass, a reporter who wrote a book about the 1999 Columbine school shooting in the United States.

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Ford
Go Further

Secret Service probe to begin

Scandal. U.S. Secret Service and military are being investigated for soliciting prostitutes

Fallout from a Secret Service prostitution scandal ricocheted around the nation's capital Tuesday, with congressional and military investigators digging into the situation more deeply and the White House facing questions about the competency of the agency designed to protect President Barack Obama's life.

At least 20 women were involved in last weekend's incident with Secret Service agents, U.S. military personnel and prostitutes at a Colombian hotel just before Obama arrived for a regional summit, a senator briefed on the situation said. The agency has referred the matter to an independent government investigator, according to a second senator.

The scandal has become a widening embarrassment for the Obama administration and the fresh flurry of activity squashed White House hopes that the matter could be left behind in Colombia once Air Force One was wheels up.

The focus fell Tuesday on Secret Service director Mark Sullivan, who shuttled between meetings at the Congress outlining what his investigators in Washington and in Colombia have found about the incident.

Lawmakers peppered Sullivan with questions, chief among them: who were the women the agents allegedly had in their rooms, and did the women have access to sensitive information that could have jeopardized the president's security.

Conflicting accounts

"Some are admitting (the women) were prostitutes; others are saying they're not."
Peter King, Republican Representative

At the White House, Obama was asked at the conclusion of a Rose Garden event whether he believed Sullivan should resign. The president ignored the shouted inquiries; his spokesman later said Obama had confidence in Sullivan.

"Director Sullivan acted quickly in response to this incident and is overseeing an investigation as we speak into the matter," White House press secretary Jay Carney said.

On Thursday, 11 Secret Service agents were recalled to the U.S. from Colombia and placed on administrative leave after a night of partying that allegedly ended with at least some bringing prostitutes back to their hotel. On Monday, the agency announced that it also had revoked their security clearances.

At least 10 U.S. military personnel staying at the same hotel also were being investigated for their role in the alleged misconduct.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dog days. Mitt Romney criticized again for strapping dog to roof

The sorry tale of Seamus, the Irish setter who spent 12 stressful hours atop Mitt Romney's station wagon on a road trip to Canada, is back in the spotlight after the Republican front-runner and his wife faced questions about the 1983 incident in a high-profile prime-time interview.

"The dog loved it," a laughing Ann Romney told ABC's Diane Sawyer in an interview earlier this week.

"He would see that crate and, you know, he would go crazy because he was going with us on vacation. It was to me a kinder thing to bring him along than to leave him in the kennel for two weeks."

Sawyer, however, questioned the extent of Seamus's enjoyment as he sat in a windy crate on the roof of the car for 12 hours. She pointed out the dog had experienced intestinal distress during the drive from Boston to the Lake Huron community of Grand Bend, where the Romney family still owns a cottage.

According to a 2007 Boston Globe profile of Mitt Romney, his disgusted boys alerted their father to the fact that Seamus was suffering from diarrhea as they made their way to the cottage.

Romney stopped at the next service station, hosed down the dog, the car and the carrier, returned Seamus to his stoop and continued to Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Criticism

Asked if he'd ever again transport a dog that way, Mitt Romney replied "Certainly not with the attention it's received," saying the story had been "the most wounding" to his campaign.

- **That response prompted anger anew on various social media platforms.** "Wrong reason," one Twitter user wrote.
- **Dogs Against Romney's Scott Crider expressed dismay.** "In other words, Mr. Romney still sees nothing wrong with what he did ... and the only reason he wouldn't do it again is to avoid personal political backlash," he said Tuesday.

Dalai Lama alohas with canoe crew

In a photo provided by Pillars of Peace Hawaii, the Dalai Lama jokes with members of the crew of the Hawaiian voyaging canoe Hokulea following the Earth Blessing and Consecration of the canoe on Monday in Kaneohe, Hawaii. The Hokulea is being prepared for an around-the-world trip.

PILLARS OF PEACE HAWAII/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Child arrest

Tantrums illegal?

Police in Georgia handcuffed a kindergartner with her arms behind her back after the girl threw a tantrum. The police chief defended the action as a safety measure.

The girl's family demanded that their central Georgia city change policy so that other children aren't treated the same way. They say the child was shaken up by the ordeal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Child pornography

Man faces more porn charges

A man charged in Indiana with coercing two teenage boys into making sexually explicit online videos, and who boasted to FBI agents that he had done this more than 100 times, now faces federal charges in Michigan for the same offence.

The U.S. attorney's office on Friday filed charges of production of child pornography and enticement against Richard Finkbiner, 39, who could face from 15 years to life in prison if convicted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The unique sound of space

Planetary phenomena. Scientists recreate the sounds of outer space by drawing on physics and mathematics

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

In space, the saying goes, no one can hear you scream. But what does space itself sound like?

Scientists used the principles of physics and mathematics to recreate the sounds of Venus, Mars and Saturn's moon Titan. Using the different aspects of pressures, temperatures and atmospheres they replicated what various natural phenomena like thunder and whirlwinds would sound like.

"All these probes have gone to other worlds and they have brilliant cameras, but they never told us what other worlds sound like," Tim Leighton, professor of ultrasonics and underwater acoustics at the University of Southampton, told Metro. He spearheaded the planetary sounds project.

Leighton explained that things sound differently on different planets because of the different atmospheres on any given planet.

Using the example of human voice, the way we make sound while talking is simple. The speaker creates audible words by vibrating their vocal chords. The higher the pitch, the faster the vocal chords move. By sounding higher, it makes the speaker seem smaller.

When you listen to someone speak, there is a slight echo of every note you say that comes from inside your body and outside from your surroundings.

This helps the listener perceive whether or not you are speaking in a big room or a tiny closet and how big of a creature you are. Leighton said that unconscious ability to hear these echoes probably developed as a survival trait so humans could figure out exactly how big that animal roaring in the distance was.

Things change on different planets. For example, on Venus, the pitch of someone's voice would drop from a soprano to a bass because they would have to push the thick, soupy atmosphere out of the way with the sound waves of their vocal projection. Also, because the speed of sound travels much faster on Venus, it would make the person sound smaller. You'd have to yell as well: The dense atmosphere would make it hard to hear.

"You'd sound like a bass Smurf," Leighton explained.

Titan

Sound of Saturn

Tim Leighton previously made headlines when he predicted what a waterfall of liquid methane would sound like on Titan.

When the Huygen's probe was sent to explore Titan for water in 2004, he wondered to himself what would happen if all visual equipment failed on the craft from the impact of the crash. Leighton said the only way to find out if the probe hit water would be to listen for the splash or a surrounding waterfall, but it wouldn't sound like what we normally hear on Earth.

Saturn's moon is especially interesting to researchers because it is the only other planet besides Earth where evidence of stable bodies of surface liquid have been found, and its climate has also been found to be similar to our planet. **MICHELLE CASTILLO/METRO WORLD NEWS**

Scan the code or visit metronews.ca to hear the sounds of space.

Discovery hitches a ride home

Space Shuttle Discovery, mounted atop a 747 shuttle carrier aircraft, prepares to land at Washington Dulles International Airport during the final trip to its retirement place on Tuesday in Chantilly, Virginia. The longest-serving orbiter in the space shuttle fleet was flown from Kennedy Space Center in Florida to the Washington, D.C. area to be transferred to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and will be placed on display in the museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

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Toddler death

Baby dies in homeless shelter

An 11-month-old baby has died after being pulled from a bathtub in a Toronto women's shelter.

Police and paramedics were called Tuesday to a downtown shelter for homeless women who are pregnant or have children.

Police say the death isn't being treated as a criminal matter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Environmentalists

Green group targeting govt

An environmental group that angered the energy industry has given up some of its charitable status so it can take on the federal government.

ForestEthics has spearheaded campaigns to get U.S. companies to use less oilsands-derived fuel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health Care

Premier calls for health care reform

Saskatchewan's premier is pushing for reforms to health care that he says include bold targets and new ways of delivering services.

Brad Wall says publicly-funded health care is only sustainable if there's a concerted effort to deliver services in a more efficient, effective way.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prostitution

No brothel for T.O.

Premier Dalton McGuinty seemed a bit confused Tuesday when asked about the Moonlite Bunny Ranch eyeing Toronto for a new brothel. He asked the reporter to explain what a Bunny Ranch was.

Informed that it was a Nevada brothewl, a red-faced McGuinty laughed nervously and responded: "We're not going there. Next question." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leader wrong on gases: Researcher

Controversial opinions. Wildrose's Danielle Smith facing heat for her views on climate change

One of Alberta's top researchers says remarks by Alberta Wildrose party Leader Danielle Smith on climate change suggest the province's political leaders need to brush up on their scientific literacy.

"I wonder if she thinks the flat Earth debate is settled?" asked University of Alberta ecologist David Schindler. "It's very discouraging in an era when sound policy requires scientific literacy in its leaders."

Smith said Monday in an online election forum that the science around climate change is not settled and the appropriate response from the Alberta government would be to monitor the debate. Her position has long been Wildrose policy.

Smith stood by those comments Tuesday.

"I have said for years the same things I said yesterday," she said in Calgary.

But scientists say while debate remains about how fast global warming will take place and what its consequences will be, there is no longer any real doubt that greenhouse gas emissions are the main cause of climate change.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith makes a campaign stop in Calgary, Tuesday. Albertans go to the polls on April 23. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta

NDP says it's best for emissions

Alberta NDP Leader Brian Mason says Albertans can forget about reining in greenhouse gas emissions under Wildrose leadership.

Mason says if Danielle Smith and her Wildrose party don't believe that human activity is causing global warming, Smith isn't likely to impose sanctions on polluters if her party wins government.

But he says Premier Alison Redford's government shouldn't be too smug.

He says Redford's Progressive Conservatives have been talking for years about their concerns over greenhouse gases while doing very little to force industrial polluters to cut emissions.

He adds that both parties are funded heavily by the oil companies and as such can be counted on to do their bidding.

Mason says an NDP government would order oil companies to eliminate environmental problems like toxic tailings ponds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court told Rafferty knew crime area

The trial of a man accused of killing Victoria Stafford has heard that a route he frequently travelled with an ex-girlfriend took him within a couple of minutes of where the eight-year-old girl was killed.

Tori was killed on April 8, 2009, but her remains went undiscovered for months under rocks in a corner of a remote farmer's field southeast of Mount Forest, Ont.

The area is more than 100 kilometres from where the Grade 3 student was abducted outside her school in Woodstock, Ont.

Michael Rafferty, 31, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

His trial is hearing that at various points in his life Rafferty lived, worked and went to school in the Mount Forest area.

Ex-girlfriend Jennifer Etsell testified that when she dated Rafferty for several months in 2006 she would pick him up in Guelph, Ont., where he was living, and drive him to visit her in Hanover, Ont., on the weekends, taking a route that passed through Mount Forest.

Rafferty said his licence was suspended at the time, Etsell said. Under cross-examination she agreed her route stayed on Highway 6 and did not venture onto the back roads in the area.

The route from Highway 6 to the field where Tori was killed involved exiting the highway at one side road and turning onto another side road, court has seen.

Rafferty's defence has suggested that his girlfriend at the time of Tori's death, Terri-Lynne McClintic, was the "engine" behind the girl's abduction and murder. McClintic, who is serving a life sentence after pleading guilty to first-degree murder, has testified against Rafferty.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victoria (Tori) Stafford, 8. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Halifax beating victim tried to stop fight: Police

Good Samaritan. Police not ruling out hate crime as possible factor in well-known gay activist's death

ALY THOMSON
For Metro in Halifax

Ingrid Cottenden paints in front of a makeshift memorial to Raymond Taavel on Gottingen St. in Halifax yesterday. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

A well-known activist in the Halifax gay community died a Good Samaritan early Tuesday morning after attempting to stop a fight between two men outside a bar, police say.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said Raymond Taavel intervened between his alleged assailant, 32-year-old Andre Noel Denny, and another man outside the Menz Bar on Gottingen Street.

"The suspect turned and then began assaulting him," said Palmeter. "A passerby saw the injured man and the man running and was able to lead us in the direction to help us locate him."

Denny was found a short time later hiding in a nearby alley and police are treating the 49-year-old Taavel's death as a homicide, said Palmeter.

He'll appear in Halifax provincial court today charged with second-degree murder.

Police also would not say if the incident relates to a hate crime. Menz Bar is a gay bar in the city's north end.

"There has been speculation online and in the community that this was a hate crime," a statement by police read. "While we cannot provide specific information about the case as it is still under investigation, police have spoken to a number of witnesses and are considering all possibilities with respect to the motive."

Denny was a patient at the East Coast Forensic Hospital in Dartmouth and failed to return to the facility following an unescorted leave on Monday. He was in the hospital after being found not criminally responsible on a charge of assault causing bodily harm from Sydney.

Court documents from 2009 describe Denny as suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and "being grossly psychotic" with a history of "aggressiveness, impulsivity and unpredictability."

Assault. Raymond Taavel wrote of previous gay-bashing in 2010

Raymond Taavel, a Halifax activist, died Tuesday after attempting to break up a fight. FACEBOOK

Tuesday's early-morning beating was not the first time Raymond Taavel was assaulted, according to a chilling article written by the victim himself two years ago in Wayves Magazine.

In the May 2010 article, Taavel, a former editor of the LGTB magazine, published a first-person account of his encounter with two men at a local pizza shop.

The 49-year-old, who died yesterday after being assaulted outside a bar on Gottingen St. in Halifax yesterday, wrote that he was confronted about being gay while waiting in line at The Big Slice at Halifax's "pizza corner" on May 17.

After admitting he was gay, Taavel wrote that he then received a "backhand" to the head from one of the men.

In the article, he described his reaction.

"Shock, fear, bewilderment, anger. These were some of the feelings that flashed through me as I glared a my assailant and his friend," Taavel wrote.

Taavel said he then called police and followed his assailant. He wrote that he felt "empowered" because he chose to act upon the attack.

"It reminded me that as a member of Halifax's LGBT community, I take my own safety for granted and I do so because I live my life freely and openly."

"I've been reminded firsthand via a backhand why I'll be marking May 17." METRO

Nova Scotia to propose legislation on online bullying

Nova Scotia Education Minister Ramona Jennex, right, seated beside Canadian astronaut Robert Thirsk, with Industry Minister Tony at left, during a school visit in Dartmouth, N.S. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Legislation aimed at cyberbullying to be tabled Wednesday in the Nova Scotia legislature is being described by the education minister as a first step in the government's approach to bullying in schools.

Ramona Jennex announced the government's intention to bring forward amendments to the Education Act after the opposition Progressive Conservatives introduced three bills to combat bullying amid calls for faster government action from the family of a teen who committed suicide.

Jennex didn't reveal details about the legislation, but she said it would address recommendations set out by a task force on online bullying last month. She said the legislative changes would set the stage for further measures to deal with bullying in schools.

"Our legislation is really putting things in place and providing a framework ... for the continued work that we are doing," she said.

The family of Courtney Brown, a 17-year-old Parrsboro girl who took her own life in March 2011 after she had been bullied online, said they want the government to act quickly.

"When there are lives at stake, nothing is ever fast enough," said Tom Brown, Courtney's father.

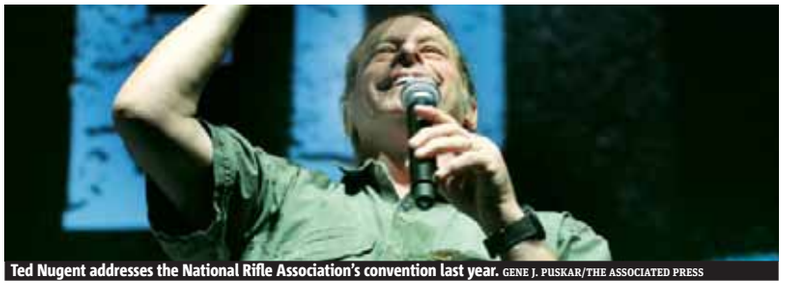
The Brown family appeared at the legislature to support the Tory bill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prevention

The Tory legislation would define cyberbullying in law and allow a series of fines to be levied.

- It would also hold parents liable if they are aware that a child is involved in online bullying and they fail to act to prevent it.



Ted Nugent addresses the National Rifle Association's convention last year. GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rocker's anti-Obama rant being probed

Lashing out. Ted Nugent tells NRA that the president is "evil"; secret service investigating speech

The U.S. Secret Service is reportedly investigating faded '70s rock star Ted Nugent for his recent insistence he'll be "dead or in jail" in a year's time if President Barack Obama is re-elected in November.

At a convention of the National Rifle Association over the weekend, the longtime gun advocate compared Obama and the Democrats to a coyote who should be shot.

"It isn't the enemy that ruined America," he said as he reaffirmed his endorsement of Republican front-runner Mitt Romney.

"It's good people who bent over and let the enemy in. If the coyote's in your living room pissing on your couch, it's not the coyote's fault. It's your fault for not shooting him.

"If Barack Obama becomes the president in November again, I will either be dead or in jail by this time next year," he said angrily. "We need to ride into that battlefield and chop their heads off in November."

Quotable

"Threatening violence — or whatever it is that Nugent's threatening — is clearly beyond the pale, but Nugent's not the one running for president."

Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Democratic National Committee
Calling on Mitt Romney to condemn Nugent's remarks

The Secret Service says it's aware of the weekend remarks and is looking into them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gun show in his sight

Sale room assistant Victor Seaward holds a pair of Indian 28-Bore Silver-Mounted Flintlock Pistols at Bonhams Auctioneers on Tuesday in London, England. The pistols, circa 1785, are estimated at £30,000-£40,000, or $47,000-$63,000, and form part of the Antique Arms and Armour sale to be held on Wednesday. PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

Prostitution

Condom evidence condemned

Advocates for sex workers want New York to become the first U.S. state to ban police officers from confiscating condoms as evidence in prostitution cases, saying it has a chilling effect on disease protection.

They say it has prompted some prostitutes to carry fewer or no condoms and have sex without them, despite massive government giveaways.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Public nuisance

No sex on beach, officials declare

Nudity on the beach? Sure. Sex in the woods? No way.

Nudists from around the country have flocked to a section of soft, sandy Wisconsin River shoreline for decades. But the fun doesn't stop at sunbathing — many people are slipping off into the woods for sex. But officials plan to close the woods around the beach to force people to show some decorum.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minister defends cuts

A Conservative minister is defending budget cuts to Canada's overseas aid spending as an exercise in accountability.

International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda says that a number of other countries, not just Canada, are making cuts to foreign aid.

"It's wrong to measure a country's effectiveness of making a difference in the world only by its inputs and the dollar amount," Oda said Tuesday.

"We have internationally led the way on the results focus on accountability for how money has been used and many countries are also following Canada's way in that regard."

Canada's foreign aid spending is one the many items on the Conservative chopping block in the government's efforts to trim the deficit and reduce overall spending.

Reduction

7.5%

The recent federal budget will see almost $38 million, or 7.5 per cent, stripped from Canada's aid budget.

Oda was asked about the issue during a conference call with reporters from Ukraine, where she was on a visit to support economic and democratic development.

Oda said Canadians want to help those less fortunate, and are very generous, but they also want to be sure public dollars are making a real difference.

"We have retained a strong commitment to various developing countries around the world," she said. "We also have to balance that with good use of public funds."

Critics say that even in a time of fiscal restraint the government can't justify cutting aid spending.

"Cutting aid is no way to balance the books," Oxfam International Executive Director Jeremy Hobbs said recently.

"Even small cuts in aid cost lives as people are denied life-saving medicines and clean water. Aid is such a tiny part of budgets that cutting it has no discernible impact on deficits — it is like cutting your hair to lose weight," he said in a statement.

Oda insisted accountability is just as important, or perhaps more important, than dollars spent. She suggested the previous Liberal governments were more focused on the amount of money in question.

"There was less accountability of how that money was spent" in the past, she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Activists hold white placards reading "Syria stop" during the "White Wave" campaign to protest against the violence in Syria, in Paris, Tuesday. THIBAULT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria sanctions are working: Official

Protest. French minister hopes financial penalties will stop Syrian repression

International sanctions targeting Syria's repressive regime have depleted its foreign currency reserves by half — and Damascus is actively trying to evade them, the French foreign minister said Tuesday.

Alain Juppe called for a solid international response to such Syrian "manoeuvres" as he opened a Paris meeting of some 57 countries, including Arab League states, to reinforce sanctions against Syrian President Bashar Assad.

In an effort to ramp up the pressure in the face of a faltering cease-fire, Juppe plans to hold a meeting of core members of the Friends of Syria on Thursday, a French diplomatic source told The Associated Press. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the foreign ministers of Qatar and Turkey are among the invitees.

The aim is to send a "firm message" to Assad's regime, which has only partially complied with the truce aimed at ending 13 months of violence, the source said on condition of anonymity because the details of the meeting were still being finalized.

The international community has tried a variety of ways to pressure Assad's regime into ending its crackdown, including financial sanctions, the subject of Tuesday's meeting.

Juppe said Syrian authorities "continue to actively seek alternate routes to get around these sanctions. Others (countries) are more or less offering alternative deals. We must respond to these manoeuvres."

"Our meeting is in itself a message: the Syrian regime must understand that it cannot continue its repression with impunity, and refuse the political transition laid out under (international envoy Kofi) Annan's plan and expected by the Syrian people," Juppe said after the closed-door talks between diplomats and Finance Ministry officials from the Arab world, the European Union, the U.S. and others - also held under the Friends of Syria banner.

Two Arab League nations – Syrian neighbours Iraq and Lebanon – were not attending. They have said that enforcing sanctions with Syria is hard for them to carry out, according to diplomats. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria's reserves

The actual size of Syria's foreign currency reserves was believed to be around $17 billion at the start of the uprising in March 2011.

- **Dwindling finances.** Juppe didn't specify how much of Syria's finances were impacted by sanctions, but said "our information" is that they have been cut in half.

Massive arrest

Iran arrests 15 on espionage charges

Iran's official news agency says more than 15 Iranian and foreign nationals have been arrested for allegedly spying for Israel, attempted assassination and sabotage.

The Tuesday IRNA report says the group planned to assassinate an Iranian expert as well sabotage the country's infrastructure. It added details to a report released earlier this month.

It said the group used Israeli diplomatic missions in Western counties to prepare plans.

The expert's field was not identified. In the past, several Iranian nuclear experts have been killed.

The latest report did not elaborate on nationality of the foreign detainees.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestine PM absent. Salam Fayyad pulls out of peace talks with Israel

The Palestinian prime minister pulled out of a planned meeting with Israel's leader on Tuesday, torpedoing what was set to be the highest-level talks between the sides in nearly two years.

The meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, attended by two lower level Palestinian officials, lasted less than an hour and ended with a brief joint statement pledging to seek peace. It signalled little progress was made.

Even before Salam Fayyad's pullout, both sides played down expectations for the meeting, which the Palestinians portrayed as a last-ditch effort to salvage peace talks before the U.S. presidential election season.

The statement said the Palestinians submitted a letter outlining their demands for resuming talks, and that Netanyahu had promised a response in two weeks.

"Israel and the Palestinian Authority are committed to reaching peace," the statement said. "The two sides hope that this exchange of letters will help find a way to advance peace."

The Palestinians were represented by Saeb Erekat, their chief negotiator, and a top security official, Majed Faraj

They gave no explanation for Fayyad's absence.

Fayyad told his colleagues that he was pulling out of the meeting because he had reservations about the letter's contents and was worried about public opposition to the meeting, said an official in his office.

The official requested anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity.

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Signal sends loonie higher

Clear message.
Bank of Canada announcement to raise interest rates prompts rise in Canadian dollar

The Bank of Canada took markets by surprise Tuesday in sending a strong signal it is getting ready to raise interest rates based on improved prospects for the global and Canadian economies.

The hawkish statement sent the loonie immediately higher after the 9 a.m. ET release time, and it closed up 0.96 of a cent at 100.99 cents US.

As expected, the bank kept the trendsetting target rate at one per cent — where it has been since September 2010.

But it was the language in the accompanying statement that caught investors off guard.

"In light of the reduced slack in the economy and firmer underlying inflation, some modest withdrawal of the present considerable monetary policy stimulus may become appropriate, consistent with achieving the two per cent inflation target over the medium term," it said.

Bank of Montreal economist Douglas Porter said he was surprised bank governor Mark Carney would send such a clear intentions.

"I expected a slight turn of the dial to the hawkish side, but this was... a pretty serious amping up of the message," he said.

"And more surprising was the signal that rates will soon need to rise."

Still, both said nothing is written in stone, noting that Carney signalled higher rates last spring only to be dissuaded when the European debt crisis flared.

Some were even more skeptical.

Capital Economics analyst David Madani said he suspects Carney may be trying to scare borrowers from taking on more debt.

"If the bank did actually raise rates, we suspect that it would have to reverse course again pretty quickly as the housing market slumped," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sears revamps operations

Returning products to Sears stores will get a lot easier starting next month, the company said Tuesday.

The national retailer will overhaul long-standing return policies that have sometimes left customers frustrated, new chief executive Calvin McDonald said Tuesday at the Sears Canada annual meeting.

Sears will scrap the 10-day return policies that have existed for years and it will also stop charging a 20 per cent restocking fee for big ticket items such as appliances, electronics and outdoor power equipment, among others.

The changes are part of a major revamp of operations at Sears Canada,which has been struggling to overcome losses as well as find its strategy ahead of an onset of new competition from discount retailers like Walmart and Target.

London, Ont., native Calvin McDonald, president and CEO of Sears Canada, addresses the Annual General Meeting for Sears Canada in Toronto, Tuesday.
AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"When we look at the market, times are tough. Consumer confidence is low and unemployment is not getting dramatically better," McDonald told shareholders.

"There are a lot of reasons we can sit and point to how and why it's tough to grow topline, but we don't look at those factors."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Turbulent charge

Airline's actions insulting officials: Justice Minister

The Quebec government is seeking a court ruling on Air Canada's obligations to heavy maintenance work that had been performed for the airline by Aveos Fleet Performance before it laid off all its employees, Quebec's Justice Minister said Tuesday. Jean-Marc Fournier said Air Canada's unwillingness to maintain Aveos' operations runs against the spirit and letter of the law. Aveos terminated about 2,600 jobs, including some 1,800 in Montreal, when it suddenly obtained creditor protection and closed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.99¢ (+0.96¢)

Natural gas: $1.951 US (-6.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,115.54 (+194.13)

TSX 12,136.94 (+99.35)

OIL $104.20 US (+$1.27)

GOLD $1,651.10 US (+1.40)

Rogers Video. Rentals out, liquidation underway

Rogers has officially bailed on the video store business.

In December, the company announced it was shuttering 40 per cent of its video shops. On Tuesday, Rogers confirmed its more than 90 remaining video stores stopped renting movies and games late last week and are now in liquidation mode.

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NATION'S SMARTEST IS A TIGER-CAT? WHO KNEW

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Apparently, I'm not Canada's Smartest Person.

This will not come as a great surprise to a long-suffering cadre of readers, friends, enemies and loved ones, but now it's confirmed:

Canada's Smartest Person is Peter Dyakowski, offensive lineman for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, who won the CBC-TV competition of the same name and is now enjoying his victory lap on the smart circuit.

For instance, next week, he appears at a Mensa Convention at the Marriott Gateway in Niagara Falls, where he will compete for gold in the Couch PotatOlympics and build a working model of a trebuchet.

For those of you who aren't so smart, that's a siege engine that fires stones at the ramparts.

Hmph.

I guess it will sound like sour grapes if I dare to ask why Canada's Smartest Person is wasting his time tinkering with trebuchets at a tourist trap instead of figuring out how to eliminate the deficit or cure cancer, but really.

And how did he get to be Canada's Smartest Person anyway? Did he threaten to bombard the CBC fortress on Front Street with rocks? Or does it have something to do with the fact that he is six-five and 325 pounds? He wants to be Canada's Smartest Person, let him be Canada's Smartest Person. Just don't make him mad.

Turns out he endured 17 hours of taping that tested multiple dimensions of intelligence: physical, musical, logical, linguistic, visual and interpersonal. As the program progressed, he was so far ahead of the competition with two science brainiacs and a "spoken word artist," that the host of show told him: "Peter, we don't care about your score anymore."

So, apart from the fact that Canada's Real Smartest Person is too busy to bother with a quiz show no matter how multidimensional, we have to concede that Peter won it fair and square and there was no penalty flag on the play (I keep mixing up my sports commentary and my egghead commentary. Excuse me. Not smart enough.)

Of course, this is a great victory for offensive lineman, who are usually lumped together and called "Grunts" or "Hogs." Now we have to call them "Smarter".

Of course, the real star of any show is not the offensive lineman or even the polymath. It's the quarterback, and will always be the quarterback.

And on the same day he signed a $26-million contract with the Seattle Seahawks, Peter Dyakowski's college quarterback, Matt Flynn, texted Peter to say that being the smartest Canadian is like winning a foot race at a fat camp, which offends on so many levels, you'd have to be a genius to figure them all out.

Peter, by the way, won a plastic trophy. How smart is that?

Peter Dyakowski of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats was the winner of the CBC show Canada's Smartest Person. BARRY GRAY/HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Let the countdown begin

FENG LI/GETTY IMAGES

London 2012

100 days to go until the Olympics

Young Chinese athletes practice Taekwondo techniques before the rehearsal ceremony to mark a 100-day countdown to London 2012 Olympic Games outside the Bird's Nest Tuesday, in Beijing, China.

As London organizers put the finishing touches on the venues, athletes around the world are training for the big moment.

With Wednesday marking the 100-day countdown to the London Olympics, it's time to take a look at some of the athletes who will stand out on the global stage this summer.
GETTY

Top 10

From the track to the pool to the hardwood, here's a list of 10 to watch (mindful that some still need to qualify):

Usain Bolt: His performance in Beijing four years ago was magical — gold medals and world records in the 100 metres, 200 metres and sprint relay.

Michael Phelps: After winning a record eight gold medals in Beijing, the 26-year-old American swimmer is back for his final big splash before retirement.

Oscar Pistorius: The South African double amputee, who runs on carbon-fiber blades, is looking to make history by becoming the first amputee runner to compete in an Olympics.

Hiroshi Hoketsu: At the age of 71, the Japanese equestrian rider will be the oldest competitor in London.

Kerri Walsh/Misty May-Treanor: No one will be more in the spotlight than Americans Walsh and May-Treanor, who won gold medals in Athens and Beijing in beach volleyball and are favourites for a third title in London.

Chris Hoy: Winner of three gold medals in Beijing, the British track cyclist is one of the host nation's top hopes for glory in the spectacular new velodrome.

Neymar: Argentina failed to qualify for the Olympic football competition, meaning Lionel Messi won't be coming. But Brazil did qualify and Neymar is the player to watch.

Kevin Durant: It's hard to single out any single player from the star-studded U.S. basketball team. This will be the chance for Oklahoma City Thunder forward Durant to show his Olympic credentials.

Lin Dan: Widely considered the greatest badminton player of all time, China's 'Super Dan' is a four-time world champion, five-time All England winner and the reigning Olympic gold medallist.

Katie Taylor: With women's boxing making its Olympic debut in London, the Irish fighter is a good bet for gold in the lightweight (60 kg) division.
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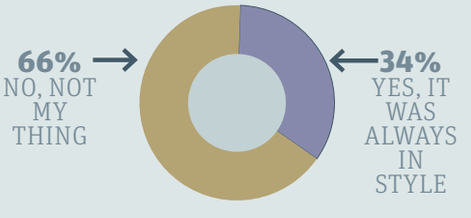

Twitter

@MsMeeta: @VanCanucks eagerly waiting to hear the news that D. Sedin's practice went well & he'll play tomorrow.. #reversesweep

@LeannIsSoSure: I <3 Johnny Canuck!! #Canucks #reversesweep

@SimplyCanucks: I'm a Canucks fan forever, I will always love and support them. True fans will always believe. #reversesweep is very possible. Believe!!

@stitch29: @ChiTownTeeJay yep sure am. Canucks are trying out this #reversesweep thing. It's an interesting strategy in my book

@hsalameh03: It's perfectly acceptable to yell " #Canucks IN SEVEN." or " #reversesweep BITCHES" randomly at home. #golden @VanCanucks

metro

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2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Ferguson returning to his roots with Late Late Show

Craig Ferguson is going back to Scotland and taking Late Late Show viewers along for the trip. CBS says the Scotland-based episodes will air the week of May 14. While there, Ferguson explores Edinburgh and Glasgow. He also returns to his hometown of Cumbernauld, with stops at his childhood home and high school.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Ben Flajnik, Courtney Robertson say they're still headed down the aisle, just not anytime soon

Nicholas Sparks, the man behind The Notebook, is the writer of the new release The Lucky One. HANDOUT

Making silver screen Sparks

Nicholas Sparks. The man behind The Notebook and Dear John returns to the big screen with The Lucky One

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

The word romance conjures up different ideas for different people.

Some folks, when they muse about love, create pictures of Fabio locked in an embrace with a raven-haired beauty in their mind's eye. Others imagine John Cusack, boombox raised above his head, lurking outside his beloved's bedroom window.

When Nicholas Sparks thinks about amour, however, I imagine dollar signs come to mind.

He is the premier romance writer of his generation, single handedly giving Harlequin a run in the tear-jerker department. Who else could write a line like, "Love is like the wind, you can't see it but you can feel it," with a straight face?

The flowery pen behind novels and screenplays like The Notebook, Dear John and Nights in Rodanthe returns with this weekend's parcel of passion, The Lucky One, a story of good luck charms and true love.

Romance writer

When Nicholas Sparks thinks about amour, however, I imagine dollar signs come to mind.

He writes tales of love and loss, of mighty obstacles overcome and lip-locks galore, which he defines as "dramatic epic love stories" along the lines of "Eric Segal's Love Story or The Bridges of Madison County … But you can even go all the way back. You had Hemingway write A Farewell to Arms, the movies of the forties — Casablanca, From Here to Eternity — Shakespeare, and that's the genre I work in."

He caught some flack for comparing himself to Shakespeare — one writer said, "If Sparks is like Shakespeare, then a house painter is like Picasso." — but the fact remains that his unconventional love stories have made his name synonymous with the romance genre.

Sitting at the top of the list is The Notebook, which made stars of Rachel McAdams and Ryan Gosling. Marie Claire magazine says, "this movie is packed with heart-fluttering-ly incredible love scenes … that it's impossible to choose just one," but Noah and Allie's boat ride on the lake surrounded by swans is generally considered to be the most memorable moment in a movie that is essentially just one long love scene.

Peter Travers called Message in a Bottle "a hazard to all those allergic to ponderous chick flicks," but the movie features great romantic chemistry between Kevin Costner, Robin Wright Penn and a scene stealing performance from Paul Newman.

Even Miley Cyrus has been Sparksified. She chose the author to pen The Last Song, her fist post Hannah Montana movie, because she was a huge fan of his other weepie A Walk to Remember.

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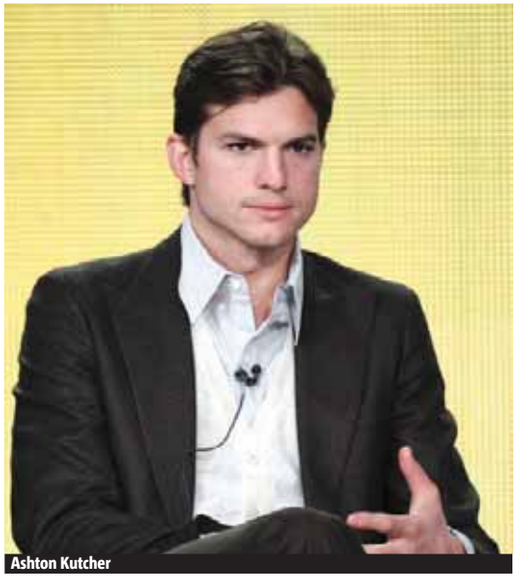

Ashton Kutcher

Kutcher and Kunis hooking up?

Former That 70s Show co-stars Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis are reportedly seeing each other — and trying to keep it quiet, according X17 Online.

Earlier this week, the pair were spotted shopping for furniture before grabbing dinner at a sushi restaurant and then heading back to Kutcher's home.

"Ashton was touching Mila's hand and Mila was all dressed up," a source says of the dinner. "She looked hot; this was definitely more than a dinner between friends — this was a full-on date."

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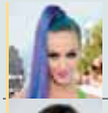

@katyperry
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@EllenPage
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@alecbaldwin
People attack me every day. I try to roll with it. Some days, I do better than others.

@AlbertBrooks
Wouldn't it be funny if God only cared about how you looked?

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Facing your fears through fist pumps

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Jersey Shore star Vinny Guadagnino is out to prove there's more to him than just being a sly guido who occasionally suffers from pink eye.

In his new book, Control the Crazy: My Plan to Stop Stressing, Avoid Drama, and Maintain Inner Cool, Guadagnino proves that he can not only pronounce such serious names as Deepak Chopra, Thich Nhat Hanh and Ekhart Tolle, but he also sees himself as an "ambassador" to their influential brand of pop psych for a younger generation.

"They are the masters. I certainly didn't invent this stuff, but it wasn't them inventing it either," he told Metro during a recent interview. "It's just a message that can be told in many different voices — a Buddhist monk, a psychologist, a spiritual guru or now, you know, a cast member of the Jersey Shore."

For Guadagnino, who has suffered from various panic disorders since high school, and even during Season 1 of the show that made him famous, it was this anxiety that led him to start reading the self-help genre.

"I started to read these books and put together a program in my head for myself. That program is what I use a lot on four seasons of Jersey Shore, and it's gotten me through all of them."

Until last year, at least, when Guadagnino took a brief hiatus from Season 5.

"The last season got a little overbearing for me, because we had this stressful schedule where we had to come over and start a new season straight from Italy," he explains of his dramatic (yet brief) departure from the series.

"What happened on the show, it happened for me naturally. So I said, 'You know what? Now's the perfect opportunity to try to help people because they know I'm not bulls—ting. It's all real life.'"

Robert Downey Jr. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Robert Downey Jr. thinks parenting is no big deal

Parenting is nothing new to Robert Downey Jr. — he already has an 18-year-old son from a previous marriage, Indio — but the Iron Man star admits he was filled with fear before the February 7 birth of his new son, Exton.

"There was all this trepidation, all this projection, all the anticipation and goodwill and a good vibe about it," he tells Esquire.

"But what you're squeezing to the side — or what's in the glove box — is these thousands of forms of fear. And then he was born and they've all just kind of scattered now. It seems like he's always been here."

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3 LIFE

Travel in brief

African Queen sails again

The African Queen, the iconic original vessel from the classic film of the same name, is plying nearshore waters and canals in the Florida Keys again. Keys sailing charter operators Lance and Suzanne Holmquist inked an agreement with the 100-year-old boat's owner and invested some $70,000 to restore the boat that carried Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn to movie history. The boat was originally brought to Key Largo in 1983 and restored then, but has languished as an out-of-the-water display for the past 11 years. Next week, the Holmquists are to begin daily cruises for Keys visitors from the Holiday Inn Key Largo.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Money talks in Olympic hotel search: London's top hotels poised to pamper wealthy guests

Animal Kingdom rides to victory at last year's Kentucky Derby. MICHAEL CONROY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Come for the Derby, but explore beyond the track

Louisville. While the city is best known for a horse race, there's also baseball bats and boxers to be had

Shadowbox with a silhouetted Muhammad Ali. Grab a bat and take a few swings in a batting cage at the Louisville Slugger Museum. Dig into a Hot Brown at the place where the savory sandwich was created.

Louisville is home to plenty of originals that liven up a visit to Kentucky's largest city, best known for a two-minute sporting event.

It's the iconic horse track that overshadows everything in town on the first Saturday in May. That's when the Kentucky Derby is run at Churchill Downs — where mint juleps flow, women sport flowery hats and sleek thoroughbreds race for immortality.

But visitors don't have to be horse racing buffs to enjoy the charms of this city along the Ohio River. The spring greenery is always dazzling in the Bluegrass state. While in Louisville, visitors can stroll along Waterfront Park — the city's 85-acre front yard. The expansive playground near downtown offers panoramic views of downtown and the Ohio River.

"This time of year, Louisvillians get so happy," said local restaurateur Lynn Winter. "It's like everyone comes out."

Not far from the park, several museums are clustered within four blocks in the city's downtown, which features an array of restaurants and shops. Among the most popular destinations are the Muhammad Ali Center and the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory.

The Ali Center showcases the boxing career of the former world heavyweight champion known as "the Louisville Lip," and highlights his social activism and humanitarian causes out of the ring.

Ali, who turned 70 in January, grew up in the West End neighbourhood of Louisville.

A short walk away, visitors can see workers crafting bats used by big leaguers. The Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory is a treasure trove of memorabilia that features bats used by Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, Ted Williams and other Hall of Famers. Visitors can pick a bat, wood or aluminum, and take a crack in the batting cages.

At the Brown Hotel, one of the city's landmark places to stay, visitors can dig into a Hot Brown. A local favourite, it's an open-faced turkey and bacon sandwich covered with Mornay sauce (a creamy cheese sauce).
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- **For visitor information.** Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau: One Riverfront Plaza, 401 W. Main St., Suite 2300, Louisville, Ky.; gotolouisville.com or 800-626-5646. Louisville Visitors Center, 301 S. Fourth St., 502-379-6109.

Spend a day in Long Island City and brush up on some New York history

Gentrification. Long Island City in Queens is a hub for culture, arts and bustling young families

REBECCA FINKEL
Metro World News in New York

Before the LIRR connected to Penn Station, Long Island City (LIC) was the end of the line. Commuters awaiting ferries to Manhattan met at Tony Miller's Hotel on Borden Avenue (now the fabulously kitschy Waterfront Crabhouse).

Teddy Roosevelt drank there, as did architect Stanford White and actress Lillian Russell.

By 1910, with expanded LIRR service and the opening of the Queensboro Bridge, LIC fell into decline. Ferries stopped running and prohibition turned Miller's Hotel into a photograph factory. LIC remained a quiet, industrial neighbourhood until the late '70s, when artists flocked to the area lofts.

In the '90s, new waterfront high-rises attracted young professionals and their families.

Today, LIC has reclaimed its status as a hub of vibrant people, culture and art.

10:30 a.m.: Eat

You can't find a bad brunch on Vernon Boulevard, with El Ay Si, Cranky's, Dorian Cafe, and Tournesol. We like four-month-old Alobar (alobarnyc.com) for its superb bloody mary and its duck confit Sloppy Joe with smoked ricotta.

Noon: See

After brunch, head to Gantry Plaza State Park, a 10-acre waterfront walk with spectacular views of Manhattan. In addition to contemporary art Mecca MoMA PS1, LIC is home to three sculpture parks: The Noguchi Museum, Sculpture Center and the Socrates Sculpture Park. Across the street from PS1 is 5Pointz Aerosol Art Center, a five-story warehouse covered in legal graffiti.

Visit between May 12 and 20 for the LIC Arts Open (licartsopen.org), when hundreds of artists open their studios to the public.

3 p.m.: Drink

LIC has the kind of relaxed neighbourhood bars that will make you think seriously about moving, or at least staying for another beer.

In fair weather, grab an outdoor seat at Dominie's Hoek (dominieshoek.com) or LIC Bar (licbar.com). Sweet Leaf (sweetleaflic.com) has a good selection of coffee and tea, which you can enjoy while playing DJ in their record room. Sage General Store (sagegeneralstore.com) has great baked goods; try the bacon brownie.

4 p.m.: Laugh

Wind down with open-mic stand-up at The Creek and Cave (creeklic.com), one of the area's two comedy clubs. Free shows start at 4 p.m. on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Long Island City has reclaimed its old status as a vibrant hub for arts and culture. ISTOCK

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On your next trip, try a solo stay

One-room hotels. Love hotels but hate sharing them with other guests? You don't have to in these new digs for travellers

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News in London

A small red boat currently perches over the edge on the roof of London's famous Southbank Arts Centre, overlooking the River Thames. But this ship wasn't swept up from the river on a huge tidal wave — in fact, it's one of the city's most exciting new hotels, a one-bedroom bolthole and art installation designed as part of the London 2012 festival.

'The Room for London' comes with en-suite double bedroom, library, kitchenette, bathroom and viewing deck and was created by David Kohn Architects with artist Fiona Banner, its design inspired by the riverboat that author Joseph Conrad captained on the journey through the Congo in 1890 that inspired his book Heart of Darkness.

Sitting at the window on the boat's bow, guests and resident artists have a breathtaking perspective over London's skyline from St Paul's Cathedral to Big Ben.

The hotel is fully booked for 2012, but it could be open for bookings when it moors up at a different location in the future.

The London hotel is just one of a trend for one-bedroom hotels, which offer the usual hotel room service, fluffy bathrobes and free slippers, but also complete exclusivity. Pocket-sized hotels are so compact that they can pop up anywhere, often benefitting from a fabulous view or unusual location.

These unusual hotels are often created as a project for an arts festival, like the Pixel Hotel in Tel Aviv. A lifeguard station will be transformed into a boutique hotel by local artists, allowing guests to sleepover on the beach as part of Tel Aviv's Art City 2012. Some of the most memorable micro-hotels to kick-start the trend include: the single-suite hotel complete with butler built around Singapore's iconic Merlion statue for the city's biennale last year, where guests would wake up under the gaze of the 8-metre-tall half-lion, half-fish sculpture; The One Room Hotel created by interior designers Jamesplumb in their East London store during the London Design Festival in 2010; and the retro-futuristic Everland hotel concept, which hosted guests high on the roof of the Palais de Tokyo art gallery in Paris in 2009.

Other one-bedroom hotels are more permanent. Kooky Copenhagen café, Verdens mindset kaffebar, which declares itself the world's smallest coffee shop, with room for just five seats, is to open a 'hotel' on its first floor this spring.

Set in the city's trendy Vestboro neighbourhood, the micro-lodgings will be simple as there's only room to shoehorn in a bed, toilet, shower and sink, but they do promise other more conventional comforts including flowers, free minibar and breakfast at their nearby sister café, Granola.

The Room for London sits atop the roof of the Southbank Centre. PHOTOS: METRO WORLD NEWS

The Room for London was inspired by the riverboat captained by Joseph Conrad on his journey through the Congo, which inspired his book Heart of Darkness.

Three to compare

The Harrington

The Harrington is a quirky micro-hotel in the lively English city of Brighton. This two-floor retreat boasts a bedroom with a stained-glass window. theharrington.co.uk

The One Hotel

The One Hotel is a luxurious one-suite hotel in Cambodia that offers a welcome refuge from the crowds at the nearby Angkor Wat temples. theonehotelangkor.com

One in Five

This haven on Paris' Left Bank aims to offer couples all the essentials for a romantic weekend. There's a suspended floating bed and 'starlit' roof, a video camera and a private cocktail station with all the ingredients to make the hotel's bespoke 'love elixir'. onebythefive.com

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Give new life to old favourites by discovering their fruitier side

Add a new twist to a family favourite with the addition of canned California cling peaches.

These delicious California Dreamin' Chicken Tacos are topped with Peach Slaw. Adding peaches boost your daily fruit servings, creating a healthier meal.

1. In a bowl, whisk together mayonnaise, yogurt, lime juice, garlic, salt and cayenne. Drain peaches well and chop. Place in a large bowl; add slaw, coriander and half the mayonnaise mixture. Stir to combine.

2. Sprinkle the chicken with TexMex seasoning. In a large non-stick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat and cook chicken, stirring for about 10 minutes or until no longer pink inside.

3. Warm shells. Add chicken and drizzle with some of the remaining mayo mixture and hot sauce (if using). Top with slaw.

NEWS CANADA/ CALCLINGPEACH.CA/ THIS RECIPE WAS ADAPTED FOR METRO ENGLISH CANADA BY EMILY RICHARDS. EMILY IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup (60 mL) light mayo
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) plain yogurt
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) lime juice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- 1 can (14 oz/398 mL) peach halves, in light syrup
- 2 cups (500 mL) packaged coleslaw or broccoli slaw mix
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) chopped fresh coriander
- 4 skinless boneless chicken cutlets, thinly sliced
- 2 tsp (10 mL) TexMex seasoning
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) canola oil
- 8 large taco shells or small flour tortillas
- Hot sauce (optional)

California Dreamin' Chicken Tacos with Peach Slaw

This recipe serves eight people. NEWS CANADA

Drink of the Week

Basil Mango Lime Smoothie with Chai

1. In bowl, combine chia seeds, water and lime juice. Set aside for 1 hour to let seeds plump and become gelatinous. In blender, combine soaked chia seeds (with liquid), honey, lime zest, basil, mango and yogurt. Blend until smooth.

- 1 tbsp chai seeds
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- 2 tbsp honey
- Finely chopped zest of 1/2 lemon
- 4 fresh basil leaves
- 10-oz package frozen mango chunks, thawed
- 2 cups fat-free vanilla yogurt

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple & Cheddar Pizza for lunch or an appy

This recipe serves four to six. NEWS CANADA

Frozen puff pastry makes this elegant crowd pleaser as easy as (pizza) pie! You'll love the flavour complements of sweet Ontario apples, mellow caramelized onions, tangy aged cheddar and fresh thyme. Cut into small squares for an appetizer, or serve with a crisp green salad for a light lunch.

1. Melt butter in heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Cook onions, stirring occasionally, for 15 minutes or until caramelized and softened. Stir in apple wedges and cook 5 minutes or until apples are firm and a light golden colour. Add vinegar, salt and pepper. Let cool slightly.

2. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C). Roll puff pastry into a flat 10-inch (25 cm) square. Cut a 1/2-inch (1 cm) strip from each side. Brush the edges of the remaining pastry square with water and arrange strips on top, trimming, to form a border (or pizza crust) on all four sides. Using fork, prick bottom of pastry all over. Arrange onion and apple mixture inside border. Sprinkle with cheddar and thyme.

3. Bake in the centre of preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes or until pastry is puffed and golden and cheddar is melted and bubbly. Let cool 5 minutes before slicing into squares. Serve warm or at room temperature. NEWS CANADA/ ONAPPLES.COM/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (30 mL) butter
- 2 onions, sliced into 1/4 inch (6mm) rounds
- 2 Ontario apples, cored and sliced into wedges
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) cider vinegar
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) each salt and pepper
- Half a pkg. frozen butter puff pastry sheets (1 sheet), thawed
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) shredded aged white cheddar cheese
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh thyme leaves

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Pounding the electronic pavement

Compute my career.
The highs and lows of the job hunt in the age of the Internet

ARINA KHARLAMOVA
TalentEgg.ca

Keeping those fingers on the keys, is key. ISTOCK

In the not-so-distant past, searching for a job was very grounded in the physical world: going to specific organizations, bringing in printed-off resumés and begging human resources for applications that could easily be recycled as soon as they had been filled out.

Now things have shifted to the web, that elusive, beckoning system of interconnectedness and global reach.

Here are some benefits and drawbacks of hunting electronically for a tangible target.

Establishing the hunting grounds

Jobs can now be found globally or locally, which means that the job opportunities available to you are only limited to how far you're willing to relocate.

Looking up a Japanese CEO who has the same obsession as you on Google is a lot easier than flying to Japan for a costly meet-and-greet only to catastrophically find out that he or she meant to write something totally different in their tweet. But now, there are also thousands of other equally multilingual, PhD-having job candidates sending in resumés, meaning you must be at the top of your game – or have something that others don't.

Hunting equipment

The downside to the online job search is that your resumé is expected to be a work of graphic artistry.

If you, like many of us, are thinking about enslaving a graphic designer for your own marketing needs, LinkedIn and other portfolio websites give you a nice (and legal!) way out. Another bonus: if you're actually a graphic artist, your entire portfolio can be seen at the click of a button!

Personal scent

Online marketing is everything. You need to be a brand yourself: a charming, sans serif love letter to your preferred employer, which means having the right skills and captivating them with simplicity.

However, being a niche with your name stamped at the top of the webpage means that you need to provide what you marketed. As far as image goes, keep the picture as risqué as the one you'd show a gaggle of your 13-year-old brother's friends (i.e., not risqué at all!) Hopefully your employer-to-be will be impressed enough by your vivacious emails so as to not Google your name and find the Grade 8 pictures you used on an old account.

Offline, a lack of self-marketing can be overcome with enthusiasm.

Meeting people in the real world has its advantages (like an instant Vulcan mind-meld-like connection), but those benefits can easily be carried over to the web and multiplied to almost life-like proportions, whether you're a burgeoning wordsmith or not.

Just like your employer can Google you, your own research on the company and hopefully, your future interviewer, can increase the ease of a connection.

ARINA KHARLAMOVA IS A TORONTO-BASED WRITER AND EDITOR, AND AN ENGLISH AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING STUDENT AT YORK UNIVERSITY.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES.

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@_JillianAnna
No question!

@nscc_recruiter
Word doc resume is usually required, but add links to a blog, video resume to enhance your brand

Web of wisdom

If you're not sure where to start or how to build a blog, portfolio or online resume, check out one of these free services and get cracking:

- **WordPress.com.** Start a blog in seconds without any technical knowledge.
- **Blogger.com:** Blogger is a web-based tool that helps you publish to the web instantly.

I heart jobs

"You need to be a brand of yourself: a charming, sans serif love letter to your preferred employer"
Arina Kharlamova

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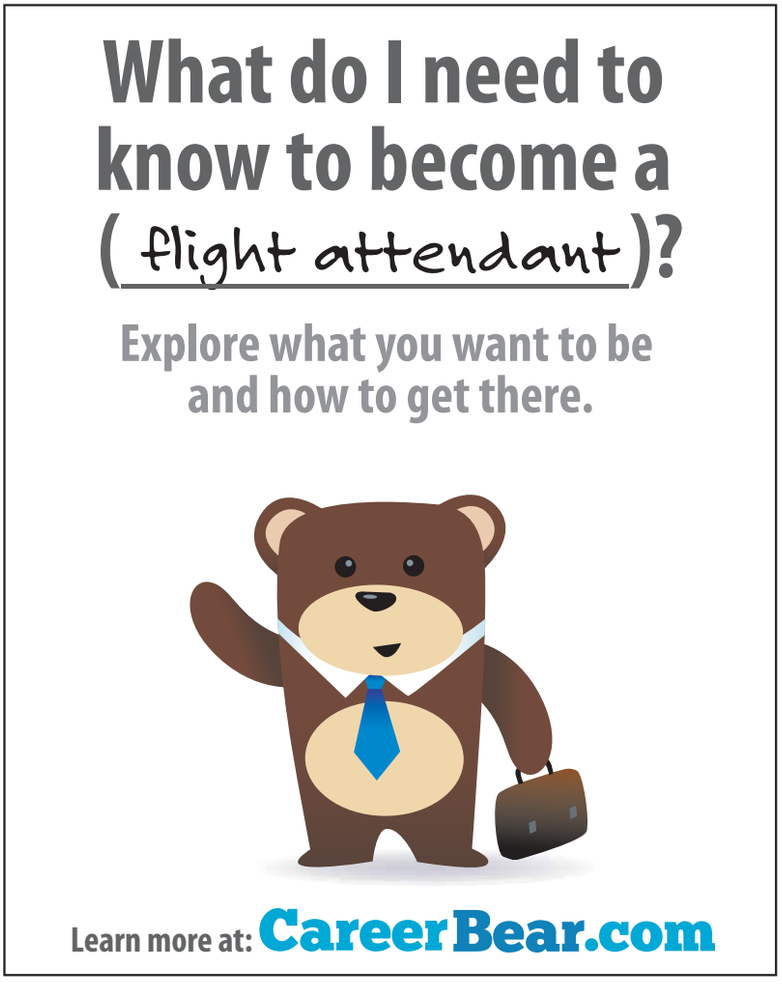
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Labour of love.
Developing a picture-perfect career is not as easy as it looks

BRUCE WALSH
Metro World News

Samuel Bendall works nine to five as an assistant account manager for an L.A.-based PR firm. But over the last five years, he has created a rewarding — and even lucrative — part-time career as a wedding photographer.

Bendall, a recent California State-Northridge grad, books about one wedding per month and grosses between $1,500 and $6,000 for each one (a fairly industry-standard rate).

The work is certainly more rewarding than his former part-time jobs in the restaurant business, but building a viable wedding photography business is far more challenging than most people realize.

"I don't do it full-time because of how much work is involved in a wedding. It's hard to convey to people," he explains.

"It's more logistics than anything: meeting with the family, the wedding planner. Plus, there's a lot on the back end of processing and packaging good images. You spend about 10 per cent of your time actually at the wedding."

And, unlike other part-time jobs, wedding photography requires both passion and talent. Bendall has been a photographer since high school and avidly pursues his own artistic photo projects.

But, perhaps most importantly, the job demands an intrinsic feel for public relations.

"You can't just be a good photographer, you have to be an incredible interpersonal communicator: Explain concisely, to difficult people, what exactly you're doing," says Bendall. "It's like Oscar Wilde said: 'If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh, otherwise they'll kill you.'"

Expert opinion

Picture yourself in the industry

Cassandra Eldridge is a wedding photographer in Chicago. She shoots roughly 30 ceremonies per year.

How do you know if you have the talent for the job?

A lot of people think that if they own a camera, they're a photographer. But there's obviously composition, thinking outside the box and timing — developing really good gut instincts.

If you're interested, [then] practice, practice, practice and see where you wind up. There are a lot of wedding photographers out there who are extremely talented. It's important not to compare.

How much do you charge per wedding?

Between $3,000 and $5,800.

Do you hire assistants?

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Kings

L.A.'s Richards not sharing playoff comeback secrets

Brad Richards, left, talks to Jonathan Quick on Sunday. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Although Mike Richards and a couple of his Los Angeles teammates might have information that could help the Vancouver Canucks out of a daunting playoff deficit, don't expect them to give it up.

Just two years ago, Richards led Philadelphia out of the same 0-3 series hole now threatening to swallow up the NHL's best regular-season team. Simon Gagne scored an overtime winner in Game 4 and the series-winning goal in Game 7 for the Flyers, while Jeff Carter watched with a broken foot.

They're all suiting up now for the Kings, who put the Canucks in this dire predicament heading into Game 4 on Wednesday.

Richards, the former Flyers captain, wasn't sharing any insight Tuesday on what it takes to pull off a feat only accomplished by three teams in NHL history.

"I don't remember that far back," Richards claimed with a grin, before acknowledging: "I can't let you know that mindset."

Carter also said he can't remember how the Flyers accomplished their feat, and Gagne hasn't played in 2012 due to a concussion.

"It's important to understand the desperation they're going to have, so we bring the same energy and enthusiasm," Richards said. "We shouldn't change our style of play, but we have to bring it to an even higher level if possible."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sedin's Game 4 status up in the air

NHL. Canucks won't rush back talented twin with season on the line

Vancouver's Henrik Sedin and Anze Kopitar collide as Vancouver's Jannik Hansen handles the puck at Staples Center on Sunday in Los Angeles. STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Daniel Sedin returned to practice with the Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday, skating alongside his brother for the first time since getting a concussion last month.

Sedin probably won't decide until game time Wednesday whether he'll suit up when the Canucks attempt to salvage their season.

Finally symptom-free after 2-1/2 weeks of pounding headaches, Sedin is pondering whether to play in the crucial Game 4 of Vancouver's playoff series with the Los Angeles Kings on Wednesday night. Sedin realizes the top-seeded Canucks are facing elimination after losing the first three, but he's simply grateful he's close to a comeback.

"It's been a tough four weeks, but it's good to be back and feeling good," Sedin said. "That's been my main issue. I really wanted to be back for the playoffs, but when that wasn't the case my main concern was getting back to 100 per cent. That's the case now."

The Canucks' top goal-scorer and last season's Hart Trophy finalist skated with his teammates at the Kings' training complex for the first time since getting hurt 12 games ago on a hit from Chicago's Duncan Keith. Sedin was on a line with his brother, Henrik, and David Booth, and he also logged time with the Canucks' struggling power-play unit.

Sedin said he has felt fairly normal for "quite a while," but he's still following the NHL's concussion protocol. He acknowledges his conditioning has suffered during a month of inactivity, saying he feels more out of shape than he has in perhaps five years.

"I had days where it didn't feel very good, so I just took a step back and relaxed for a few days," Sedin said. "It's been on and off, but it's been a long time since I had those bad headaches."

Vancouver coach Alain Vigneault said the team's medical staff will determine whether Sedin should play. He's not about to rush Sedin, even with the Canucks facing elimination.

Presidents' Trophy-winning Vancouver has scored just four goals in its three losses to the eighth-seeded Kings. The power play is 0 for 14 without Sedin, who had 10 goals and 15 assists with the man advantage this season.

Sedin probably would focus on the power play if he suits up for Game 4, and he took his turn in front of the net during practice, redirecting shots.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I've been too nervous to watch, but from what I've heard, it's been tight. It's too nerve-wracking. My wife wanted to watch (the first two games), but I told her to turn it off."

Daniel Sedin

By the numbers

4

Presidents' Trophy-winning Vancouver has scored just four goals in its three losses to the eighth-seeded Kings. The power play is 0 for 14 without Sedin, who had 10 goals and 15 assists with the man advantage this season.

Relentless Red Wings can't solve Rinne

Predators goalie Pekka Rinne deflects a shot by Red Wings right-wing Danny Cleary on Tuesday in Detroit. CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pekka Rinne made the Detroit Red Wings' dominant performance meaningless.

Rinne made 40 saves, and Kevin Klein scored a go-ahead goal 6:25 into the third period, lifting the Nashville Predators to a 3-1 win over Detroit on Tuesday night and a 3-1 lead in the first-round Western Conference playoff series.

"Usually, the game gets easier when you face more pucks," Rinne said.

Nashville can eliminate Detroit in Game 5 on Friday.

"Now we're in a tough situation," Red Wings captain Nicklas Lidstrom said. "We've got to go down to Nashville and win one game."

Predators rookie Gabriel Bourque broke a scoreless tie 1:55 into the third period. Detroit's Niklas Kronwall tied it 1:19 later with a power-play goal that was waved off on the ice but reversed by video review.

The Red Wings pulled goalie Jimmy Howard to add an extra skater with 1:31 left, but had to put him back in the net because Henrik Zetterberg was called for high-sticking with 55.8 seconds left. David Legwand's power-play goal sealed the win with 39 seconds left.

Rinne stopped the first 29 shots he faced, including a kick save on Lidstrom's slap shot at the end of the second period.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Game 4

Predators	Red Wings
3	1

4 SPORTS

Canucks preview

Vancouver at Los Angeles 7 p.m. (CBC)

The Canucks need to win in Los Angeles to avoid a sweep at the hands of the eighth-seeded Kings. Dustin Brown scored the only goal and Jonathan Quick stopped 41 shots on Sunday in a 1-0 win. Brown leads all players in the series with four goals and five points. Vancouver netminder Cory Schneider made 19 saves in his first start of the playoffs. Daniel Sedin travelled to Los Angeles on Monday, fuelling speculation he might play tonight.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

The Bobcats have been NBA playoff afterthoughts all season, but with six games remaining there is still something worth fighting for in Charlotte. The Bobcats are desperate to get one more win to avoid statistically becoming the worst team in NBA history. Scan the code for the story.

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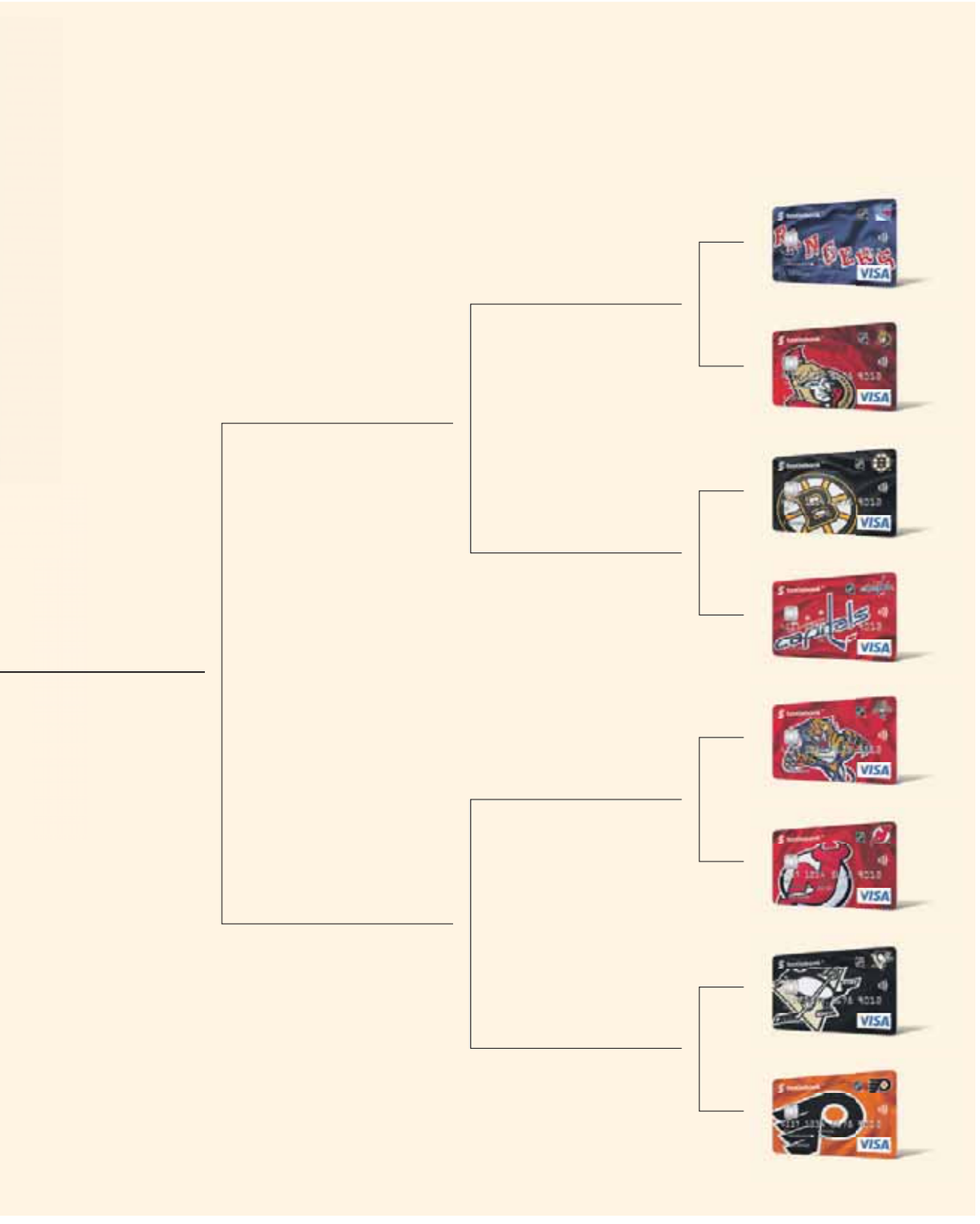

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Camilo, right, and Laurent Courtois of Chivas USA vie for the ball during a match in March in Carson, Calif. Vancouver is easing Camilo back into action and hoping he will provide a boost to the team's offence VICTOR DECOLONGON/GETTY IMAGES

Whitecaps return to action searching for ways to score

MLS. Vancouver has scored just one goal in its past three games

Vancouver Whitecaps coach Martin Rennie hopes some time off will help his team end a goal-scoring drought.

Vancouver (2-1-2) has only scored one goal in its past three games heading into a game Wednesday at home to Sporting Kansas City.

Unbeaten Kansas City is the first team to start the season with six regulation-time wins since 1996. The Los Angeles Galaxy earned eight that year.

"Especially in a home game, it's important for us to come out strong," said Rennie after practice Tuesday in suburban Burnaby. "Having had a few days off, I think everybody's looking forward to getting back to it."

The game will be the Whitecaps' first in 10 days. They last played April 7, while suffering their first loss of the season in the form of a 3-1 setback in San Jose.

In that game, three San Jose goals in a 10-minute span cost them the game after Vancouver had taken a 1-0 lead shortly after halftime.

"We actually played well in that game," said Rennie. "But we had a disappointing 10 minutes where we gave them some goals and made some mistakes, but we've addressed that and worked on that."

Rennie wants to see his club continue to push the ball forward and take and finish its scoring chances. But that will be a difficult task.

Kansas City has gone 337 minutes without surrendering a goal — the second-longest perfect defensive run this season behind Vancouver's mark. The visitors went a league-record 335 minutes without allowing a shot, before goalkeeper Jimmy Nielsen made a routine save in last Saturday's 1-0 win over Real Salt Lake.

Nielsen has only faced eight shots this season while posting a league-leading five shutouts. Kansas City ranks second in scoring with nine. By comparison, the Whitecaps have scored just four goals.

The Whitecaps will get a boost by the return of wounded Brazilian striker Camilo. Vancouver's top scorer last season with 12 goals can come off the bench.

"He's been injured for four weeks," said Rennie. "So he's not really done anything.

"Once he gets back healthy, he'll be a big contributor."

Camilo, who has one goal this season, is recuperating from a quadriceps injury that has limited him to four appearances this season and just three starts. He played 14 second-half minutes against San Jose after sitting out a scoreless draw in Philadelphia a week earlier.

Rennie said he wants to ease Camilo back into the lineup, so he is unlikely to start against Kansas City, but should be involved in the game somehow.

If the striker does get in, he hopes to re-live the magic he enjoyed against Sporting in 2011. Last April, Camilo scored two goals as many minutes apart — in added time — as the Whitecaps came back to post a miraculous 3-3 tie with Kansas City after trailing 3-0.

"I feel very confident against this team because it was the first time we (tied) a game," he said. "But (it's) another year, another (Kansas City) team." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We've played hard. Now, the most important thing is to score more goals."
Whitecaps striker Camilo

Record

426

The Whitecaps established an MLS record for the most minutes at the start of a season without allowing a goal (426), then conceded three over 10 minutes.

Angry Sid not bothering Flyers

NHL. Penguins star lost his cool in Game 3; Face elimination tonight

Sidney Crosby got too caught up in his hatred for the Philadelphia Flyers to recall that one of his best friends wears the orange and black.

No worries, though. Max Talbot isn't going to delete Crosby's number from his cellphone.

"He's definitely a great friend," Talbot said Tuesday. "He was heated up in the moment and that's OK. It's not like I'm not going to talk to him after the series."

Crosby and the rest of the Pittsburgh Penguins lost their cool in a fight-filled 8-4 loss to the Flyers that put them on the brink of getting swept out of their first-round playoff series.

The Flyers can eliminate the heavily favoured Penguins and advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals with a win in Game 4 Wednesday night. People are still talking about one of the most thrilling NHL games in recent memory. Fists flew faster than pucks, and goals were scored at a ridiculous pace. Crosby, the often-concussed former MVP, was at the centre of it all.

Afterward, Crosby said: "I don't like any guy on their team."

That's news to Talbot, who was Crosby's teammate for six seasons in Pittsburgh before signing a free-agent deal with the Flyers last summer. The two players are close friends, and they even appeared together in a Reebok commercial at Crosby's parents' house in Nova Scotia.

Asked if he was surprised by Crosby's antics in Game 3, Talbot replied: "Yes and no."

Crosby twice jabbed goalie Ilya Bryzgalov's glove against the ice after the whistle, and then poked aside Jakub Voracek's glove when he bent down to pick it up. Crosby then went after mild-mannered Kimmo Timonen, setting off his "wrestling match" with Giroux.

"I see Sid as such a great competitor," Talbot said. "When things don't go his way, he tries to do other things."

The Flyers are fine with whatever Crosby tries.

"He's one of the best players in the league. It's good that he's frustrated. He doesn't focus as much on his game," Voracek said.

Crosby will certainly get more than an earful from the boisterous Flyers fans. Many are calling him a "cry baby" and some plan to bring diapers to the rink, if they can sneak those past security. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I think we're trying to do whatever we can to win hockey games. We've just got to win one game. That's really what it comes down to."

Penguins forward Sidney Crosby

Max Talbot, left, checks Sidney Crosby in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference quarter-finals Sunday in Philadelphia. Talbot says he and Crosby are "great friends." BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Coyotes score OT winner in wild, rough game

Marian Hossa falls down after taking a hit from Raffi Torres Tuesday in Chicago. Hossa was taken off the ice on a stretcher and is expected to recover, but there is no timetable for his return. Mikkel Boedker scored 13:15 into overtime and the Coyotes beat the Chicago Blackhawks 3-2 on to take a 2-1 series lead. NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Panthers stage 4-goal comeback

Two days after ending a 15-year playoff drought, the Florida Panthers staged their greatest post-season comeback, knocked out an old nemesis and seemingly found themselves a new goaltender.

Brian Campbell scored on a second-period power play and the Panthers rallied from an early three-goal deficit to defeat the New Jersey Devils 4-3 on Tuesday night behind a 19-save performance in relief by Scott Clemmensen over the final 54 minutes.

Not only did the Panthers take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-7 Eastern Conference, first-round series, they did it by sending Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur to the bench after only 22 minutes.

"The story of this series has been the momentum swings," Clemmensen said after making only his second career playoff appearance and posting his first win. "We're only three games in, but we've seen three goals up, three goals down. For us, we've proven we can come back from three goals down. They have proven to us that they can come back.

"It's a matter of perseverance for us and the unity in this room."

Sean Bergenheim, Jason Garrison and Mike Weaver also scored for the Panthers, who had never rallied from more than a one-goal deficit in their post-season history, with the last coming in a 4-3 win against Pittsburgh on May 30, 1996.

The power play is the main reason the Panthers are ahead as the series turns toward Game 4 here on Thursday. They converted on all three of power plays against the league's top-ranked penalty kill unit, and are now 6 of 10 in the series with the man advantage.

"I think we definitely got overexcited about that three-goal lead and let them back in the game being a little undisciplined, and they got some goals off their power play," said Brodeur, who was a little miffed being lifted in the second period with the game tied. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Game 3

Panthers	Devils
4	3

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The Skyactiv powerplant is a 2.0-litre, four-cylinder gasoline engine that features direct fuel injection. It runs on regular gas and is 10 per cent lighter than Mazda's non-Skyactiv 2.0. Output is rated at 155 horsepower and 150 pound-feet of torque, down from the Tribute's 171/171 levels.

No more smiley face grille.

Skyactiv

Most of the CX-5's mechanical bits are promoted under Mazda's "Skyactiv" theme that made its initial appearance in conjunction with the 2012 Mazda3. From a chassis and suspension perspective, the automaker says it has attempted to infuse the vehicle with as much MX-5-Miata-type sporty behaviour as possible.

Less cargo space

The CX features a curvy accent crease along the lower door edges. In back, the slant of the liftgate glass suggests a bit of hatchback has crept into the design, which could explain why there's slightly less cargo space than the Tribute had, even though the CX has a bit more stretch-out room for passengers.

2013 Mazda CX-5

- **Type.** Four-door, front-/all-wheel-drive compact tall wagon.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (155).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 7.8/5.7 (MT, FWD).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $24,800.

Review. It's a game-changer for Mazda, and with a low base price and low fuel consumption, it might be a game-changer for you, too

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

If you're looking to cheap out on fuel bills while still maintaining your quality of life, then the new Mazda CX-5 could be driving right up your alley.

These days, nearly every car shopper places good —no, better make that excellent — fuel economy atop their must-have lists, without sacrificing roominess and comfort in the process.

Well, for the 2013 model year, which begins right about now for Mazda, the CX-5 could do the trick.

Replacing the long-standing Ford Escape-based Mazda Tribute wagon, this brand new five-seater becomes the smallest of Mazda's tall-wagon models, a group that includes the CX-7 (also a five-seater) and seven-passenger CX-9. But the CX-5 might just be the best looking of the bunch and has Mazda's evolving look, that will eventually spread to the entire lineup.

The CX-5's curvaceous shape is best viewed from the front, where you'll notice a neatly-shaped sloping hood and expressive (as opposed to the more controversial smiley-face) grille.

With the proliferation of brand new, or nearly-new, models in the compact tall-wagon segment, Mazda's timing with the CX-5 couldn't be better.

League-leading fuel economy and a great entry price don't have to take the place of getting a stylish and well-equipped vehicle — they can be part of it.

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

A cool table for two

The Transformers would be lucky to have this one in their team of Autobots. It's a cooler that actually converts into a picnic table. Once you have wheeled the Picnic Table Cooler Combo from BJL Enterprises to your preferred spot, the sides are unfolded and propped open using the attached metal legs. Similarly, the two folding child-sized stools that are stored within the sides of the table are removed and set in place. The top of the cooler that forms the mid-section of the table is removable for access to your food and/or beverages, while the extra long pull handle folds out of the way. When set up, the Cooler Combo measures about 40 centimetres tall and 100 centimetres wide. Get yours for between $60 and $70 US from a number of online resellers, including topoftheline-travel.com and amazon.com.

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TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Common Issues

Check your used Accent's clutch for slippage or signs of wear, as some owners have reported having to replace it early on. If the model you're driving has a manual transmission and exhibits any clutch chatter or slippage, move to another unit, or negotiate for a new clutch. A check-engine light may be caused by a bad emissions system component. Be sure to determine and remedy any check-engine lights before agreeing to purchase.

Have a Hyundai mechanic check the underside of your potential used Accent for signs of a leak from the transaxle.

If the power windows appear to move slowly or 'chatter' on their way up or down, the involved window regulator may be on its way out.

Other than a few minor issues, this generation of Accent looks to be reliable — especially if well maintained.

Engine

All Accent models got a 1.6-litre four-cylinder engine with variable valve timing and 110 horsepower. A four-speed automatic or five-speed manual attached it to the front wheels.

What Owners Like

Most Accent owners rate the styling, spaciousness, ride quality and handling of their machines highly. Many report positively on fuel mileage as well. Performance looks adequate with the manual transmission on board. Good manoeuvrability and an easy-driving character round out the package.

What Owners Dislike

A sub-par factory audio system, high highway revs and easily-scratched interior plastics are among this generation of Accent's most common complaints.

Verdict

Other than a few minor issues, this generation of Accent looks to be reliable — especially if well maintained. A healthy model should offer up a pleasant and thrifty driving experience and lower-than-average used prices.

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8.8 L/100 KM HWY* | BEST-IN-CLASS*

2012 Jeep Cherokee Overland shown.[§]

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30 MPG HWY
10.3 L/100 KM HWY*

2012 Jeep Wrangler Sahara shown.[§]

2012 JEEP PATRIOT SPORT 4X2
MOST AFFORDABLE SUV IN CANADA[£]

PURCHASE FOR
$16,998•
INCLUDES $1,750 CONSUMER CASH* AND FREIGHT.

TOP SAFETY PICK 2012 With side seat airbags.

OR CHOOSE

$99 BI-WEEKLY WITH $0 DOWN @ 4.99%‡

40 MPG HWY
7.0 L/100 KM HWY*

2012 Jeep Patriot Limited shown.[§]

Jeep.ca/Offers

MORE POWER. LESS FUEL. GREAT VALUE.
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CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE RAM

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Driving a self-driving car is a conundrum wrapped in an enigma

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Whenever I ride shotgun I tend toward second-guessing the driver and twitching in my seat.

So imagine me sitting behind the steering wheel of a "self-driving" car while it is being driven by a computer. And a computer I've never even met!

But, not surprisingly, the Cadillac SRX stays on its course around the big oval at GM's Milford Proving Grounds with expert facility. And well it should, equipped as it is, with enough computer hardware and software to run a small space program.

The SRX is GM's latest in a long series of "self-driving" vehicle prototypes. Its first one was built way back in the late 1950s, and was also a Cadillac (the 1959 Cadillac Cyclone concept). The SRX version is a lot closer to being a production reality.

Before we were chauffeured in the SRX by software and sensors, Dr. Alan Taub, GM's vice-president of Global Research & Development, confirmed that some form of autonomous driving will be available by the end of this decade.

He noted that the minute we started trying to prevent crashes, through such systems as ABS and stability control, we started on the path toward a self-driving car.

Today, many cars can not only alert and assist the driver to avoid a crash, they can also intervene on our behalf to avoid a crash. The technology that enables "not crashing" is the same for self-driving vehicles. They include sensors, braking and steering wheel actuators, software, cameras, radar and satellite navigation.

The concept of a future without a human behind the wheel is sure to raise the ire of driving enthusiasts and control freaks the world over. But before you start assembling with the intent of storming the GM proving grounds with pitchforks, take heed that Dr. Taub has also gone on record saying that everyone should experience the joy of driving, so if there is autonomous driving in GM's future, it will be equipped with an "on and off" switch.

GM says a better way of picturing this "on and off" switch is to think of it as a "super cruise control" button. Like regular cruise, it would only be engaged in certain situations, like extended stretches on appropriate and/or designated highways, and would not replace the human driver for the vast majority of driving situations.

For one thing, the SRX prototype's current technology needs to pick up the lane marking on the roadway, with its suite of on-board cameras. So a dirt road, a snow-covered road, or a rainy day will immediately put the kibosh on autonomous driving.

But the experimental SRX "self" brakes, accelerate and steer fairly smoothly, a lot more smoothly, in fact, than my Uncle Joe ever drove. And other than the big stack of computers in the cargo area — and the extra exposed wiring — it looks pretty much like a regular Cadillac SRX.

A production self-driving SRX, however, will require another advance in sensor technology.

"You couldn't do it with today's sensors, it's going to be tomorrow's," said GM engineer Eric Raphael, who has the big job of researching how to "productionize" a future self-driving Cadillac. He also happened to being riding shotgun during my "self-drive" drive and never flinched once.

Look ma, no hands! GM is working to bring this prototype to our roads. CONTRIBUTED

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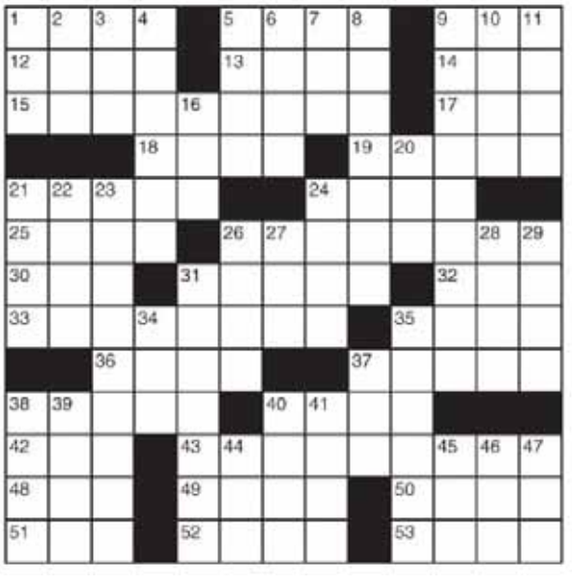
Crossword

Across

1 Plate
5 BLT topper
9 Spot on a domino
12 Vicinity
13 The yoke's on them
14 Equal (Prefix)
15 Theater balcony
17 Buddhist sect
18 Performances
19 Demolished
21 Chaplain
24 Rice-A- —
25 Saharan
26 Trimmed with wide ruffles
30 Emerald City VIP
31 Disgusting
32 Lawyers' org.
33 City of Galilee
35 Teensy bit
36 "Dies —"
37 Sustained hum
38 Star of Cygnus
40 Prompted
42 Have bills
43 Techno-jargon
48 More (Sp.)
49 Actor Morales
50 Littlest of the litter
51 Em halves
52 Actress Diana
53 Remain

Down

1 Block the flow
2 Rage
3 "— who?"
4 Sand trap, e.g.
5 Billings' st.
6 Line of symmetry
7 Longing
8 Burdensome
9 Played without a bow
10 "Gotcha"
11 Walden, for one
16 Expert
20 Massachusetts cape
21 Chess soldier
22 La Scala showstopper
23 Vertigo
24 — Hashanah
26 Gratis
27 Parcel of land
28 Black, in verse
29 Knighted woman
31 Snatched
34 Exist
35 Intense feelings
37 Morning moisture
38 Capitol cap
39 Actor McGregor
40 Despot
41 Submachine guns
44 GI entertainment org.
45 Trench
46 "CSI" evidence
47 Pigs' home



Sudoku

	5		1	4	7		6	
9								1
		6				2		
3	2		4		6		9	7
				7				
7	8		3		2		4	6
		4				9		
5								3
	9		8	2	1		5	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	5	8	4	6	3	1	9
9	1	8	2	7	3	6	5	4
3	6	4	9	1	5	7	8	2
4	3	1	6	8	9	2	7	5
8	5	6	4	2	7	1	9	3
2	9	7	5	3	1	4	6	8
5	7	9	3	6	2	8	4	1
6	4	3	1	5	8	9	2	7
1	8	2	7	9	4	5	3	6

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

DN KLR ZDJC UN LWBSFTMZA LTX T BTQR UNNASYDJC, HUWQX LR FR MTQQRX KLR SYDJMR UN HLTQRA?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE ANSWERS "NO" TO "WILL YOU MARRY ME?", I SUPPOSE THAT'S PROPOSITION OPPOSITION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals F

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. You may think the world is against you but it's just that you have allowed a minor event to morph into a major issue in your mind.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Leave well alone today, especially on the work front where, if you make unnecessary changes, the results may not be to your liking.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Some will criticize you no matter what do, so you might as well ignore them and just get on with it.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You take it personally when people change their minds and upset your plans, but don't be so sensitive.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Today, if someone says something unjust, or even abusive, your best move is to laugh it off.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. The reason you don't get along with a certain person is not because you are so different but because you are so very much the same.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You'll go over the top and say things you don't really mean, and you'll hate yourself for it when you calm down, but it's no big deal.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Don't promise that you'll do something today unless you are certain you are in a position to deliver.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. If you cut corners or take shortcuts in any way, shape or form today, you will pay the price a little bit further down the line.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You will try to bluff your way out of an embarrassing situation today, but you won't succeed.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. If you are told something in confidence today don't rush out and tell everyone else. If it gets out, no one will confide in you again.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Whatever else you do today don't try to compete with rivals and enemies on their low level. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Can someone please tell me where Dumbledore is?"
Selena

DAVE CHIDLEY/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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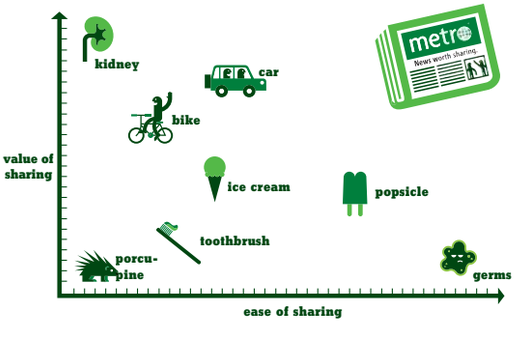

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GLS model shown

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GLS model shown

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